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HISTORY

OF

Sir Harry Herald

AND

Sir Edward Haunch.

By HENRY FIELDING, Esq.



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CHAP. I.

*Necessary to be read for the better understanding
those which are to follow.*

 SIR Harry Herald, a gentleman of Shropshire, was descended from one of the most ancient families of the kingdom, even *truib* admitted his genealogy could be traced as far back as William the conqueror; but *that* he has been often heard to say was a descent of *yesterday*, and would compound for no *era* later than Alfred the great. Nay, after midnight and t'other bottle, never failed of boasting,

boasting, the blood of Boadicea ran in his veins, though, from every account we can collect of that princess, (if such a one ever existed) her whole family was totally extirpated by the Romans. But Burgundy has that peculiar quality, it does not only create a new *circulation*, but new *blood*, and fills its votaries with most fantastic, and visionary ideas of happiness; and especially so, where the seat of the heart is already surrounded with chimerical imaginations of hereditary honours, that have been laid in the dust these thousand years.

Of this cast of thinking, was Sir Harry Herald, yet, abstracted from this absurd weakness, a man of many eminent virtues; but chose rather to derive his merit from the effusion of blood his ancestors had made in the field, than his own humanity, in preventing the misery of his *cotemporaries*; tho' he possessed no inconsiderable portion, and was a man of an open, benevolent disposition, of great use and benefit in the neighbourhood where he lived; yet too susceptible of valuing mankind, more for the *coat of arms* they bore, than the *virtues* they possessed. This gentleman had two sons, who inherited every *meritorious* quality of their father, without being tainted with his mistaken and egregious *foible*, which drove him into many perplexing anxieties and fears, lest either of them should unguardedly *contaminate* the pure and ancient fountain of their Blood,

blood, by contracting an alliance with any family, whose veins were not *illustriously* swelled.

In order to obviate the dread arising from these apprehensions, he took a journey to London, with no other purpose, than to make the closest Inquisition, at the *market* of honor, in *Doctors Commons*, of the origin and pedigree of every gentleman's family, in his own, and every adjacent county round him; but had there been (and certainly there ought to be) an office for registering, throughout the kingdom, estates that are in danger of taking leave of their original tenures, he would have passed unheeding by *that*, had he been properly satisfied in the far more *important* point of their *antiquity* and *illustrious descent*.

On his return into the country, after this very *commendable* and *prudent* enquiry, he rejected two or three advantageous propositions of marriage, that had been made him for his eldest son, because the family could give little or no account of themselves, for more than *five Centuries*; and his information falling vastly short of his hopes, in the counties near him in England; the vicinity of Wales, with the pompous pedigrees he had obtained copies of, relative to almost *every family there*, induced him, to propose to his sons, making a progress with him, through *that* country, in order to make choice of proper objects, for gratifying *his* passion of *pride*, and *theirs* of *love*. But the young gentlemen having al-

ready

ready made *theirs*, with more regard to the youthful, sprightly blood, that *now* flowed with becoming grace, in their *mistresses* cheeks, than in those of their great *grandmothers*, were obliged to exercise all their rhetoric and art, to dissuade the old gentleman from an expedition, so fraught with *Quixotism*, and so repugnant to their wishes, and a previous passion they had entertained for two young ladies, at about four miles distance from their father's seat. And as those ladies will make no inconsiderable figure in this history, it will, I think, be necessary to give some little account, not only of their *personal*, but *mental* merits.

Meliora, to whom the eldest brother paid his addresses, was daughter of a gentleman, possessed of an estate, equal to that her lover had the expectancy of. She was about nineteen, was toasted in that country, by the name of the *Brunette Beauty*; tall, genteel, not slender, yet a fullness of person that served only to render her gracefully easy, and bestow a becoming dignity in her address, that enforced *reverence*, because it attracted *admiration*: superiority of mind, and softness of manners, were so happily blended, they at once excited the passions of fear and love. Her internal beauties were in due proportion to those of her person; she had *complacency*, and *greatness* of mind, was modest without prudery, and gay without coquetry; a heart susceptible of *love*, but

but not of *change* ; because her choice was conducted by her *understanding*, not her *eye*.

Her companion, and friend, was one of those melancholy instances, which even before their births, became the innocent sacrifices of the folly and madness of the fatal year twenty ; having little or no fortune, but what indulgent *nature* had bestowed, who had been lavish in *her* gifts, to make compensation for those *fortune* maliciously had deprived her of. She was of that kind of form, that might be justly termed, the soft and elegant ; had an understanding, that, while it made her conscious the *bad* charms prevented her from appearing *vain* of them. This young lady, Meliora's father had taken under his protection, when she was about ten years of age, and made her companion to his daughter, who was then about eleven. Thus having lived together in mutual harmony, for seven or eight years, they had contracted an indissoluble friendship, and regard for each other ; and Meliora had prevailed upon her father, to make up seven or eight hundred pounds, which was the whole of *Felicia's pecuniary* merit, two thousand, whenever an advantageous match should offer.

Sir Harry Herald's younger son had seen this lady at an assembly at Shrewsbury ; where his brother first became acquainted with Meliora, and where both commenced lovers. This gentleman, though a younger brother,

was

was, by an uncle, the adopted heir to an estate, equal, if not superior to his father's.

The reader is now slightly acquainted with some of the characters I propose, by and by, making him more intimate with; and the next chapter shall introduce him to some others 'tis necessary he should also have a knowledge of.

CH A P. II.

Full as interesting as the former.

THE two brothers, mentioned in the former chapter, have been only shewn to the reader at a *distance*, but let me assure him they are worth his most *familiar* acquaintance. The eldest, though his father (lest he should mix with company below his *blood*, and *rank*) would not suffer to make the tour of Europe, was nevertheless a man of very good sense, unblemished honour, and what might be justly called a fine gentleman. The younger had been indulged by his uncle, in that fashionable *vagarie*, yet returned to his native country, with more pleasure than he left it; and by being abroad, had learnt to put a higher value upon its constitution, customs, sincerity of manners, and its religion; in short, he was neither become a *coxcomb*, nor an *atheist*.

Men

Men of this cast, it will be readily imagined, were not extremely fond of associating with the *squires* of the country; characters that certainly do not greatly contribute to the improvement of a man's Knowledge, unless he is solicitous to become an adept in the most *improving* science, and genealogy of *dogs* and *horses*; therefore, they did not very frequently follow the chace, or the bottle; but their amusements centered in a few chosen books and men, not altogether devoted to Pan or Bacchus; yet their attachment to a *sister* deity sometimes obliged them to the worship of the *ruddy* and *rustic* ones.

The father of Meliora was, what is termed amongst the rural geniusses, a *keen* sportsman, and his whole life had been much more devoted to the field than closet; therefore Alfred and Charles, the sons of Sir Harry Herald, the eldest of whom he had thus reverentially named after his chimerical ancestor, were sometimes obliged to do violence to *one* inclination, in pursuit of the hare or fox, in order to gratify *another*, of a gentler kind in the field of love; and thought it necessary now and then to attend Sir Edward Haunch, the father of Meliora, in his excursions after the *deer* that ranged in his *park*, that they might support the intimacy they had contracted with him, and have more frequent opportunities of paying their devoirs to the two *belles* that inhabited his *house*.

Sir Edward did not by any means pique himself in the degree Sir Harry Herald did, upon *family* descent, but took the lead of him largely in his opinion upon that of *fortune*; and though perhaps it might be judged severe, to term him an *avaricious* man, yet with great propriety we may venture to put him down as a *very strict oeconomist*; for though he had only one child, yet out of an estate of two thousand pounds a year he did not spend above seven hundred; and his *charitable* or *benevolent* acts have not hitherto reached the knowledge of the author of this history; and if *one* baronet was anxious for the *honour* of his family, the *other* was equally so for the *wealth* of *his*. Sir Edward having been often heard to complain, he was much at a loss to find out a proper and prudent match for his daughter; and once, in confidence to a particular friend, said, that doubtless an alliance with Sir Harry Herald's family might be *honourable*, but he much feared its proving *prudent*; for notwithstanding Sir Harry had a good *nominal* estate, he doubted whether upon enquiry it would appear so in *reality*, and that he had shrewd suspicions a certain wealthy banker in London had a *collateral* right in it. And indeed how could it be otherwise, while the *essence* and *substantial* merit of a family was so apparently neglected, to support an *idle*, *imaginary* one; that he had often wondered Sir Harry, who abstracted from that weakness was a man of sense and penetration,

penetration, should make the interest and true welfare of his family slaves to a preposterous pride and vanity; and such every considerate reflecting man must think the absurd and ridiculous boast of an ancient coat of arms, and a genealogy that covered more parchment than the deeds of his estate, but was of as little worth as the wax that sealed them, before it received the impression that made them valid; that for his part, had not his title *descended* to him with his estate, he would not have expended fixpence to have obtained either *that* or the most glaring ensigns of a long tedious ancestry, the party-coloured gentry with their fools jackets gull mankind of their money for an establishment of; that the man whose pedigree was not wrote upon his *heart* ought to be ashamed of boasting any other; if indeed every founder of a family could have arrived at the magic of transmitting his *merit* with his title and wealth to his descendants, let their coat of arms be blazoned with rubies, pearls and diamonds of the first water; not, continued the old gentleman, that I have heard Sir Harry Herald ever did the minutest thing to improve his own or the honor of his ancestors, his error lies in the opposite extreme, which I heartily wish to see corrected, for he is certainly a man of *probity* and *virtue*, 'tis pity his *prudence* is not equally extensive. Perhaps the reader will be apt to wish mine had been a little more so in curtailling this long harangue;

range; but let him be informed, I have had great mercy upon his patience in not reciting quite a *third* of it. That may be, says he, but your very *mercy* is a sufficient punishment. If that, sir, is really your opinion, I shall endeavour for the future to offend as little as truth and the importance of my narrative will admit; in which I will now proceed with all imaginable brevity.

The two brothers had yet made no other declaration to Meliora and Felicia but what their eyes bespoke, and that is by no means an *unintelligible* language to young ladies, more especially such who have a disposition to become *pupils* to those *tutors* they would prefer to every other professor. This was the case with our young female students in the school of *love*: they had marked out the two brothers as men of the most distinguished merit, in person, politeness, and an elegance of address; of their *internal* worth the world spoke loudly, and there wanted little to enforce its opinion in the breast of our young heroines. But this pleasing grateful passion, like the rose, is never possessed but through the danger of being wounded by thorns and hurtful briars. But that Image, indeed, does not sufficiently describe the apprehensions of fear which alarmed these young practitioners in their first efforts under the banner of Cupid. Meliora reflected with herself, the impediments that would necessarily arise from the opinion she knew her father held

held of Sir Harry Herald's œconomy, and the situation he suggested his affairs were in. Felicia's prospects were clouded with far more melancholy ideas. Meliora's fears were formed from the objections she was too well convinced her *father* would start; Felicia's from those of Sir Harry Herald, and even her *lover*; the *first* from the *obscurity* and *mean-ness* of her birth, and the *other* from the narrowness of her fortune; but she had not so ample an idea of his heart as *he* deserved or *she* desired.

But I have a little wandered from the purpose of this chapter, and not been quite so punctual to my promise as I intended, in presenting to my reader's view some other characters not unworthy of his notice, though some of them I would not recommend to his *imitation*; but I beg his pardon for intruding *my* opinion, since every man *will* choose for himself, and to *that* I leave him in the perusal of the following chapter.

C H A P. III.

Contains the character of an old bachelor, and other important matters.

THE brother of Sir Harry Herald, who had adopted his youngest son, was an old bachelor of near fifty, had a large share of the pride of the baronet, but a much larger

larger share of *penury*, though in the education he had given his nephew and the appointment he annually received from him, it did not by any means appear; yet some, who pretended to enter into the secret recesses of his heart, have affirmed these to result more from his *pride* than any other passion, that *his adopted son* should at least keep pace, if not outstep his brother in every article of expence. If the *young gentleman* felt the happy effects of this ostentation, the *tenants, tradesmen and servants*, were frequently sensible of the weight of his *parsonious* humour, and their rents, bills, and appetites were often taxed to supply the deficiency of that sinking fund. At other times he had starts of benevolence and great hospitality, but had yet some other peculiarities which did not greatly recommended him to the good opinion of the world; such as a large portion of choler, an invincible obstinacy, and now-and-then a passion for *ebriety*, in which fits he was vastly troublesome and obstreperous; after these he constantly sunk into a deep hypocondriac, and would not be seen for many days. These strange inconsistencies of conduct induced the lower class of his country-neighbours to whisper round to each other, that *Zartain Bower* the *Squire* was not in *his right mind*; and their penetration was countenanced by some who pretended to assign a secret source for a conduct so unconnected and variable, but did not choose to give a name to this child of their imagination,

imagination. How true or false these conjectures were, the reader will be able to judge by the following relation.

Our bachelor, at about the age of thirty, had contracted a particular intimacy with a gentleman who was captain of a man of war, and had signaled himself with distinguished bravery in several engagements. This gentleman had been married about two years to a young lady of birth, but slender fortune, at the instance and almost command of her father, who paid no regard to her expostulations against the match, though she with tears represented to him it must prove destructive to her perpetual peace; but all remonstrances were ineffectual, there was interest in balance against those miserable anxieties which are ever the result of a *forced* marriage. He represented to her, that captain Britton was not only a man of merit in himself, which was alone indeed sufficient to recommend him to the notice of those in power, but to many of them he was allied by blood, therefore could not possibly fail in a short time becoming an *admiral*. These, with many other arguments and some oblique hints, that her disobedience by a refusal would be attended with his utterly throwing her off, at last prevailed with her to give her *band*, while her *heart* abhorred the union.

During this whole transaction, Mr. Herald was made the captain's chief confidant, the only person, except relations, at the wedding;

ding; and continued upon the most familiar foot of intimacy in the family, was of every party of pleasure, and a month or two together at their seat in the country.

Though the young lady's heart continued untouched by *love*, yet its avenues were by no means shut to *gratitude*. She reflected with great inquietude of mind upon the severity of her fate, which restrained her from feeling those tender sentiments of soft regard and sympathizing passion, which the growing love, unpalled by possession of her husband, demanded from her, but which she still found herself unable to repay. A consciousness of this kind, in a generous breast, necessarily affects the spirits, renders them languid, melancholy and restless, and where the *mind* continues to be thus impressed with disturbed ideas, the *body* rarely escapes partaking of the inquietude. This influence was too apparent in the declining health of the unhappy Maria, to pass unnoticed by the man who almost held his *own life* dependent upon *hers*, he therefore used all possible means to re-establish it; for which purpose, by the advice of her physician, they set out for Bristol, in order to her drinking the waters of the hot well, which were judged the most probable means of recovering her constitution, which appeared consumptively inclined.

Mr. Herald and a young lady, a relation of Maria's, were of the party. After drinking the waters three weeks or a month, there was

was a visible alteration in the spirits and countenance of Mrs. Britton. About that time the captain received an order from the lords of the admiralty to repair immediately to London, to take upon him the command of a small squadron of ships destined for the West-Indies. This he forthwith obeyed, leaving Mrs. Britton (by the advice of a physician resident at Bristol) behind him, who having already received a perceptible benefit by the waters, their continuance was judged absolutely necessary for a confirmation of her health; that consideration readily induced her husband to a concession, and especially as their separation, had she accompanied him to London, must have been immediate.

He took his leave with the resolution of a *man*, but yet with all the tenderness of a *lover*; recommended her to his friend Her-*r*ald's protection, with the kindly assistance of her *female* companion, and the morning after he received the order went post to London. Some short time after his arrival he hastened to Portsmouth, and from thence embarked for his station in the West-Indies, where he remained near fifteen months.

Mrs. Britton continued to find the good effects of the Bristol waters, and by a repeated use of them for about ten weeks was perfectly restored to her former state of health. She seldom frequented the assemblies or balls, and rarely went abroad but to the pump-room or to take the air, and her acquaintance

acquaintance was in a very narrow compass. Her principal amusement was cards at her own lodgings, and the party usually consisted of Mr. Herald, the young lady who was her relation and another with whom she had some slender acquaintance in London, lodging in the same house. These four, after the departure of captain Britton, generally spent their evenings together, either in consulting the *gay library* of the *four Kings*, or some other authors of equal pleasantry, but who rose a little higher in their erudition, and where *reflection* had a larger share than mere *amusement*.

It may perhaps be a matter of speculation to some readers, in attempting to point out a motive for Mr. Herald's devoting so much of his time to three women where there did not appear any face of an intrigue : if he'll defer his curiosity till the next chapter, in all probability it may be gratified.

CH A P. IV.

An intrigue which the inquisitive reader will not pass over.

TIS a received opinion, I believe, that *love*, like death, earlier or later strikes every breast; as no condition, courage or constitution, can withstand the terrors of the *latter*, so no vivacity, reserve, or mediocrity of temper, is proof against the soft insinuating allurements

ments of the *former*. The prince, the peasant, philosopher, fidler, countess and chambermaid, are alike susceptible of its tender tumults. If the reader has any doubts relating to the verity of this opinion, let him only take a dozen turns in the mansions of Moorfields, and he'll meet a variety of characters equal to those named above which have fallen sacrifices to this fatal passion. In one cell a templar lamenting his broken vows to *Celia*, and those of *Chloe* to *him*; in the next a tapster raving against his instant *Susan*, in another a miserable daughter wildly declaiming against the cruelty of inexorable parents who have destroyed her peace.

Neither Mr. Herald or Mr. Britton had either of them been affected with this fatal phrensy, till it became *criminal* in both to harbour so insidious an enemy: but it would be highly unjust not to acknowledge, that each of them exerted their utmost efforts to repress the earliest attacks it made. But the soft approaches of love are *swift* and *silent*, and justly enough support the allegorical fiction of *Cupid's* wounding by an arrow. Thus were this gentleman and lady involuntarily plung'd into a passion that proved *pernicious* to him, but *fatal* to her.

I shall not detain the reader with a prolix recital of the progress of this unhappy amour, but inform him that virtue and honour were at last too weak for love, and Mrs. Britton proved with child, which, when she perceived,

ceived, threw her into an inexpressible *agony* for sometime, and afterwards into a deep and heavy *melancholy*.

When she discovered this fatal misfortune to Mr. Herald, *his* dejection was little inferior to hers; but the strength of his sex and reason prevented the severity of its continuance. and he began to deliberate upon the means to prevent if possible the discovery to the world; for though she was a married woman her husband had been absent four months, and was not expected to return in less than eleven more, therefore no pretence could be possibly formed for the legitimacy of a child born in his absence.

After he had revolved in his mind on many expedients, and consulted with her which would prove the least liable to detection, it was determined, that to continue in her own house was the most eligible, and by all possible arts and means endeavour its concealment, and on no consideration to make any confident; but as she was in *reality* greatly disordered, the most plausible method was constantly to keep her chamber, when her pregnancy became too apparent for visitors and servants; that some few days before she expected her delivery, he should take a lodging in some obscure village near London, for himself and her, under a fictitious name; and the pretence to her friends and servants for this absence should be a visit to some female

male friend, whose name when the period of time came should be determined on.

These resolutions for some months were abided by, but on more mature reflection both altered their sentiments as to the execution of the *latter* part of them, to which they were induced by the fortunate circumstance of her shewing less visible marks of her situation than are generally usual: these, assisted by every method that could possibly be suggested, covered her from suspicion, and she continued in her own house till she found the last symptoms approaching. Against which time Mr. Herald had provided a place at no great distance for her reception, at the house of a person experienced in matters of this kind, who had previously received her directions from him.

When Mrs. Britton found the Crisis of her condition would no longer suffer her continuance at her own house she ordered a chair, as if going to pay a visit; he took care to be ready for the escorting it toward the appointed place; but to prevent any discovery by the chairmen, before they quite reached the house she got out, and with great difficulty walked thither. When she came to the door she clapped on an *Italian Mask*, was conducted into an apartment, and in three or four hours delivered of a daughter, which was given to the care of a nurse, whom Mr. Herald had provided for that purpose

wherever you wish to be going in the below

below stairs, who immediately went away with it, and to whom he had given a hundred guineas to bring it up as her own. After the necessary care had been taken of Mrs. Britton, she was wrapped up as warm as possible, put into another chair and carried home, where she immediately went to bed, but the extraordinary measures she had pursued were too dangerous and violent not to be attended with fatal consequences, and the next day she was found *dead* in her bed. Notwithstanding every imaginable caution had been used during her *life* to prevent any discovery, yet after her *death* it became impossible; the women who were employed in the last offices about her whispering the means which must have occasioned it, and Mr. Herald broadly hinted at as the man. This induced him forthwith to quit the town and kingdom, and he continued three or four years abroad, but no amusement he was furnished with there had sufficient power to banish the melancholy weight that hung upon his mind, which had this complicated source, he languished for the loss of the *woman*; yet had the severest compunction in reflecting on the shocking violation of his friendship to captain Britton, and his third affliction was having disposed of the child in such a manner, that the woman into whose care he had given it was totally ignorant of *him* and *be* of *her*; the precipitate and unnatural method he had used in getting rid of it very severely affected

affected him, and on his return to England made the closest enquiry the nature of the thing would admit, but could not receive the least intelligence; and the only consolation he received was, that captain Britton was killed in an engagement on his return to England, and the perfidy of his wife and friend happily never reached him; this, as it could not *extenuate* the guilt, neither did it *dissipate* Mr. Herald's constant ideas of it.

From this fatal spring arose all those inconsistencies and unconnected fallies of conduct that appeared throughout the remaining part of his life, for which we must refer to some succeeding chapters.

CHAP. V.

Contains a description of three country houses.

THE castle (for by that denomination it was known) of sir Harry Herald was in reality a very ancient building, and if *his* account of its antiquity is to be depended on was built before the barons wars, and maintained many notable sieges against the regal power; and in the adjacent grounds have been frequently found the bones of men, which with the utmost reverence he preserv'd in glass-cases in a room appropriated for that purpose, of which he himself always kept the key, and no servant was suffered to approach, or

or was ever seen by any other persons, but such as professed the most reverential awe for antiquity and the memory of long departed heroes. But some arch country-wags very *factiously* whispered, they had heard their grandfathers say, when they were boys, they remembered the *parish-church* standing near that place, which being blown down was rebuilt upon another spot then judged more convenient, and that these very bones sir Harry made such a pother about, as the remains of his *illustrious ancestors*, were no more nor less than the homely relics of honest farmers and threshers that had been deposited in the *old* church-yard. But these were anecdotes that never transpired but with infinite caution, or when the strong beer grew too powerful for their usual discretion and sagacity.

The house——. I beg Sir Harry's pardon——the castle, was large and venerable, and carried indeed some tokens of its having been a place of defence. There were battlements round the top, it had four fronts, and formed a large quadrangle within; the kitchen was the largest I ever saw, with four chimneys in it, and several coppers of an unusual size, that might have furnished out a dinner for three hundred men or more; and there were, in the very upper part of the house, places partition'd off as if intended for the lodging of at least that number, and which Sir Harry always termed his *barrack*, and

and said, he had old legends by him that made honorable mention of the heroic deeds of its ancient inhabitants, with the number of sheep and oxen they devoured weekly in the great hall, which was furnish'd with fifty or sixty different achievements of his ancestors, all of the same *original* coat of arms, but most of them either variously *blazoned* or *crested*, with a long recital of the gallant actions for which those honors were conferred, and the *identical* sword and helmet hung beneath with which the hero of that day so magnanimously signalized himself. Under others, victorious trophies taken from the vanquished foe, &c. &c. &c.; in short, every parade the pride of *birth* and *family* wantonly suggests to the distempered brain of a man devoted to such *imaginary merit*: nor did every other room much less manifest this mistaken idea of virtue and honour; every chimney had its ensigns of antiquity, every pannel its portrait of dignity and valour; in some few, indeed, room was made for an *antiquated beauty*, but not unless her lineage could be traced down for several centuries. Jewels were produced worn at coronations before the contest between the houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, and gilt plate borrowed of *his* family for the service of those ceremonies in *Westminster-hall*. There were embroidered beds, in which grandmothers and great-grandmothers first became acquainted with connubial joys. In fine, the whole

whole furniture and œconomy of the house were silent historians of pristine ages.

The mansion of the other baronet, Sir Edward Haunch, had its *antiquities, genealogies, victories, trophies, and family-honors*; but they were not transmitted to posterity by *heralds, but huntsmen*. His hall, instead of being adorned with the helmets of heroes, targets, and rusty swords, contained the extended antlers of bucks of the first head; the skins of foxes, badgers, hares and otters, that had maintained, with the utmost skill and strength, their natural right to liberty and life against the barbarous wanton tyranny of man, but were here hung up as the victorious trophies of dogs and horses, instructed by the vast wisdom and penetration of their sagacious masters to hunt them down, as the most dangerous and inveterate enemies to mankind.

The hound, the harrier, beagle, and the generous horse, who had all been thus *ingeniously* instructed to enter into this notable warfare with their fellow-brutes, were at no inconsiderable expence, by *Watson, Tillman* and *Seymour*, delivered down to posterity in the hall, parlour, and other apartments of the house, with no less pompous parade than the *human heroes* of Sir Harry Herald. And, perhaps, were the merits of both critically enquired into, it might be difficult to determine which had the amplest pretence to be dignified.

As to the remaining furniture of the house, or its architecture, it falls in a great measure below the dignity of history, and therefore we shall not soil these pages with their description, only just mention, that if the side-board of Sir Harry Herald shone illustriously with gilt goblets that had honoured coronations, *that* of Sir Edward Haunch had no less lustre from those it was adorned with, obtained at the *equestrian Games*. But not to make honorable mention of the stables and dog-kennels, would be an unpardonable injustice, and might most rationally draw upon us the imputation of malice or negligence; therefore be it known to the reader, in these superb mansions was delivered down, almost as ancient and long a line of ancestry, relative to *Whitefoot, Ranter, Ringwood, Fowler, &c.* &c. as was observed by his brother-baronet in immortalizing the *human* species.

'Tis promised, in the preamble of this chapter, to give a description of *three* rural habitations; how we have acquitted ourselves, even in the two already mentioned, is not our business to determine, but are nevertheless thoroughly conscious we shall be most egregiously deficient in the last, and do very sincerely wish an indulgence might be granted for the rash precipitancy of the engagement, since it might with equal propriety, have been undertaken to describe total disorder, confusion and chaos; and, perhaps, the reader may already have enough of them

them in the furniture of his own head.--- That's true, cries some elaborate *critic*, or he would never have sat himself down to this damn'd stuff?----why, sir, you are perfectly right, and it was never intended for the profound *sagacity of your head*, but the abundant *weakness of his*---- presuming upon which, we shall venture to continue writing what we judge fit for *his* reading----and if, sir, you have ever been an author, I fancy the odds are against you, that, like other authors, you wrote to the *majority*; and sacrificed your extensive learning, shining genius, and immense abilities, to the pressing instances of your *taylor, perwig-maker, and discreet (tho' very vociferous) landlady*-----but be that as it may.---I well know what induced me to write, therefore shall exert myself in pleasing the *generality* of readers, that I may also please the bookseller, myself, and creditors, so leave *you*; sir, to the full enjoyment of your proficiency of wisdom, and proceed to my description, though I frankly own I don't know how or where to begin; but writers, like heroes, will wage unequal war.

This third tenement was not in the least deficient in its venerable marks of *antiquity*, either *externally* or *internally*. Its avenues were overgrown with weeds, its windows considerably impaired by *time*, and its roof suffered various depredations from the relentless arm of that ancient *wight*, and its *inside* rendered almost invisible by the dextrous

rous workmanship of its numerous inhabitants; for, unfortunately, it was not built of *Irish* oak; and, to say true, every other part of the house apparently manifested the indefatigable industry and curious mechanism those *minute* artists are so justly famed for. Swallows had erected large colonies in every chimney, as the rooks had in every tree, the hoarse harmony of whose voices gave a correspondent, solemn melancholy, not only to their *own* habitations, but that also to which they were such similar neighbours; for the rueful countenances of all its *domestics* very precisely tallied with the croaking concert of those *ebon choiristers*.

Throughout the house were the visible marks of discontent, negligence, and a precarious provision, which was either plentiful or penurious, as the sudden or variable disposition of its master happened to be *in* or *out* of tune.

Methinks I hear my good friend the critic break out again, and cry----what the plague means all this paltry pother about describing of old houses?-----why there again, sir, you happen to be out;----you really, have not depth enough to find that this is a *laboured, artful, and allegorical* description of the *men*, and not their *mansions*; 'tis the new method authors have to illustrate their subjects, or, to do as good a thing, lengthen out their *chapters*----which having brought about in this, I'll now put an end to.

CHAP. VI.

A love scene, followed by another not quite so interesting to some readers.

THE two brothers, Alfred and Charles, it has been observed, were often obliged to follow in the train of *Diana*, in order to prosecute the conquest they purposed under the banners of *Cupid*. There was no introduction to the house of Sir Edward Haunch gave his visitants a more frequent or more open welcome, than commencing an intimacy with his *bounds* and *horses*, and every gentleman that kept *them* company in the field were certain, if they thought it expedient, to make part of *his* at dinner as often as they pleased. These occasions were too favourable for our young lovers to neglect improving for their mutual advantage, and the *ladies* were not less happy in these interviews than their admirers; yet a sensible mortification still attended them, as they were ever in mixed company, where the silent language of the eyes was all that could be spoke upon the subject they were all reciprocally interested, and equally wished to have enlarged upon more explicitly.

Accident, however, furnished an opportunity, hope had not been sanguine enough to expect. A favourite horse of Sir Edward's, upon which one of his grooms rode, after the

the chase was over, fell and dislocated his shoulder, at about five miles distance from the house. The two Lovers knew nothing of this accident, having rode gently on before the company, and finding they were not overtaken imagined something like what had befallen detained them, both joining in opinion, fortune had furnished them with a fair occasion to have a chance, at least, of a short conversation with the ladies, without interruption from that medley of company that were following after to dinner; they set spurs to their horses, and got to the house near an hour earlier than Sir Edward and the rest of his troop. The ladies seeing them, from an apartment above stairs, ride into the courtyard by themselves, were equally ready to embrace this happy crisis, as their lovers had been to improve the opportunity chance had furnished them with, and forthwith came down into the great parlor, as indeed was their usual custom when the company returned, to receive them: when they entered the room they appeared under some little surprise, and Meliora said, she hoped no accident had prevented the return of the other gentlemen, she imagined to have found them *all* there.---The elder brother told her they were in at the death of the stag, and nothing then had occurred, or since, that they knew of; the sport being over they rode gently on, and did not doubt but the remaining part of the company would arrive but *too soon*.---

Too soon---returned Meliora, I don't comprehend you, sir----He continuing mute, and greatly disconcerted, the younger replied, if, madam, you and my brother will give me leave, I will explain for myself and him, wherefore we fear the too great expedition in their return ; we have, madam----here, under the utmost confusion, he stopped, but a little recollecting himself, again began ; we have---I say, madam, long----long---languished---humph ! humph ! I cannot speak---why have I presumptuously undertaken a task for *him* I am so utterly unequal to on my *own* part, and yet---his brother interrupting him said, wherefore, alas ! is this diffidence imposed upon our natures, in acknowledging a passion for such objects that it would become almost *criminal* to behold *neglectingly*---Well, cried Meliora, I protest this is vastly pretty ; and to tell you with a grave, solemn countenance, we did not understand you, and were not extremely pleased, would be point-blank renouncing our sex ; but how, if after all, there should prove some unlucky blunder, and we four should unfortunately happen to be at cross-purposes, and think diametrically opposite to each other ? The apprehensions of that, madam, replied Alfred, threw both of us under that confusion, in declaring sentiments we cannot but be too conscious we have the slenderest pretensions for *your* corresponding with. This, sir, returned Felicia, is extremely applicable to *that* lady, who has beauty,

beauty, fortune, and every other requisite to challenge the esteem of the most meritorious of our sex, but where nature and that fickle goddess have both been scanty in their gifts, vanity herself is insufficient to make the application *personal*. Charles, with the strongest marks of deference, said, *vanity* and *merit*, madam, are ever at variance, of which you have this instant given a forcible example.

Meliora smiling, said, why ay, now indeed matters begin to clear up a little, and we shall quickly come to an explanation, this is as it should be, there seems to be no great danger of being embarrassed with doubts, which I promise you we were in a horrid flutter about. Alfred said, whatever doubts, madam—when Meliora interrupting cried, lord ! fir, you quite mistake the thing, we had no doubts relating to *truth, honor, constancy of vows*, and all that; but our doubts arose lest there should be some terrible mistake in point of *choice*; but your brother, heaven be praised ! has pretty well cleared that point, in his respectful peculiarity of address to my friend there---; but raiery apart, and not to behave as the *coxcombs* of our sex too frequently do to those of *yours*, since we would by no means draw such a character upon *ourselves*, by a conduct to men who rise so superior to the imputation on *their* side; and though forms and customs are against it, I have ever thought it no breach of the strictest adherence to honor,

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for a woman to make an ingenuous acknowledgment she has the capacity of distinguishing *truth* and *merit*, from *idle ribaldry* and *fashionable fustian*. You, my dear Meliora, interrupted Felicia, have the amplest pretensions to make the declaration, who have it so largely in your power to *reward* that truth and merit; but prithee what must become of those poor women who are perhaps equally conscious of the *distinction*, but utterly deficient in making the deserved *compensation*? If, returned the other, my best Felicia means the application to herself, I know of no deficiency *nature* has made on *her side*, and I should hold the man in the lowest contempt that considered any supplied by *fortune* on *mine*. Fortune, madam, replied the elder of the brothers is merely adventitious; but beauty, accompanied with every faculty that can adorn the mind, is the *peculiar gift of heaven*, intended as the full completion of human happiness. Charles, looking tenderly on Felicia, said, the man whose narrow mind has space alone for *fortune's* tinseled toys, can never taste the solid transports resulting from the contemplation of an object which renders all her gifts superfluous.

Here the conversation was interrupted by the return of the sportsmen, who all came clattering into the room with rather more noise than *breeding*. The baronet cried, girls, girls, is dinner ready? we are all as hungry as the hounds: Meliora told him, it had waited

waited more than half an hour, and she was glad to find no misfortune had been the occasion of it. No misfortune, returned the knight hastily, by the lord ! but there has, an irreparable one, the laming the best horse in the county : No, no, my knight, replied a sagacious magistrate of the neighbourhood, not *irreparable*, I'll hold fifty pounds I supply the misfortune out of *my* stable ; the *consequence* indeed may be *irreparable*, if, by our staying to take care of the horse, your *venison* should be *over-roasted*—O, cried a young squire of about five and twenty, by the lord, Justice, you are but a *half-strained* sportsman ; who the devil cares a halfpenny for any game but upon the foot or the wing ? you a sportsman, quotha ! that are more *concerned* at the over-roasting the venison, than at the laming the poor *cretur* ; now for my part, d'ye see, I had rather ha' gone without my dinner this fortnight, than any such like misfortune should ha' befallen the poor beast---Ay, ay, replied the magistrate with great solemnity, you are young, and can't distinguish what *are* and what are *not* misfortunes, but years will teach you more experience ; when you come to *my* time of day you'll judge better of men and things, and not give your opinion so inconsiderately and rash---By the lord harry ! quoth the squire, I would not give a fig for the years and experience that teach a man no better *larning*, than to *presar* the roasting of venison to the bestriding a good sound

found horse. Here dinner was brought in, and put an end to this edifying debate, as it must to this more edifying chapter.

CH A P. VII.

Which perhaps will afford but little entertainment to the female reader.

WHEN the king's health had gone round, and the ladies were withdrawn, Sir Edward said, he was greatly rejoiced to hear of an association that was going to be entered into for the better preserving the game, and that the extravagant citizens would not have an opportunity of pampering their luxurious maws by the villainous roguery of the damned poaching farmers, who spent more of their time in setting traps and springs, than they did in tilling their land and taking care to pay their rent. Ay, ay, Sir Edward, cried the young 'squire, I think we shall lead the scoundrels a dance over hedge and ditch, that may-hap will teach them more manners than to spoil the sport and rob their masters. Charles said, he imagined the more *effectual* means to stop the practice of poaching would be to take off the restraint imposed upon the farmers, who, he conceived, had an *equitable* and *rational* right to *share* at least in that part of the game that was either supported or pursued at their expence; and that beyond all

all doubt every landlord transferred his right to the tenant in every inch of ground while he received the stipulated rent for it, and was invested with the right of suing him for non-payment. Why now, answered the 'squire, I can't find out, d'ye see, that *that* argues a button; for could not we have chose whether we would have let them the land or not? Ay certainly, sir, replied Alfred, but then you know the steward would fall short in his accounts, and gentlemen must necessarily fall short in their amusements and expences, or their creditors fall short of their payments. Pshaw! replied the 'squire, what sort of gentlemen be they that *troubles* their heads about stewards, and creditors and payments? what the plague signifies what such fellows as they be suffers, if so be gentlemen have their *diversions*? Hold! hold! cried Sir Edward, that's carrying the joke a little too far, though; the labourer is worthy of his hire, and every man ought to have his own. Why, replied the sagacious Mr. Scent, (for that was our trusty 'squire's name) look ye, d'ye see, I have nothing to say against every body's having their own any more than another man, d'ye see; but yet, if so be the farmers must be allowed to share and share alike with their landlords, of what signification and value is all the *vagaries* and racket you make about liberty and property, and such like stuff?

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A clergyman who was present observed, that the very essence of liberty consisted in the *general* distribution of its benefits; that he was clearly of opinion with those gentlemen who were advocates for the farmers, both as it appeared to him not only to be their right, but, as had been very judiciously observed, the most probable expedient for putting a stop to the pernicious practice of poaching; for were the farmers allowed the privilege of killing game upon their own lands, they would certainly be extremely vigilant that none but such as had an indubitable right should ever enjoy the benefit. Besides, as things are now circumstanced, there is a mortification an *Englishman* can but ill brook, in being deprived of the enjoyment of what he so largely contributes in supporting.

The justice, who during this time had taken a very comfortable nap, in the full enjoyment of his salutary slumbers cried, *the fat is the finest I ever tasted----*give me another bumper.----Well said honest quorum, said Sir Edward, *sleeping* and *waking* thou hast done my venison right---ay, cried Scent, and your wine too, baronet, by the *wrekins*, while he could hold his mouth and his eyes open. A grave physician who was at table said, if there was any gentleman there who had any annuity or other dependence upon that worthy magistrate's life, they would act prudentially to disturb those noxious slumbers; for, notwithstanding

notwithstanding those escapes of pleasurable tranquillity which so luxuriantly flowed from him, *that* instantaneous retirement to rest, upon the stomach and vessels becoming inordinately replete, must inevitably be attended in its *first* stage of danger by *apatby*, next an *epilepsy*, or *apoplectical paroxysms*, the third of which is beyond the power of the most efficacious medicine, and necessarily becomes fatal. Scent, clapping the Justice upon the shoulder, cried aloud, dost hear, honest *Mistinus*, what the *larned* doctor says ? the Justice yawning and rubbing his eyes cried, *send the rascal to the stocks, what ! does he insult me in my office !* but being a little more recovered from his visionary view of tyranny, said, od, so ! gentlemen ! I beg a thousand pardons, I am really afraid I have been rude, and forgot myself a little ! the doctor rising, and coming behind his chair, desired to feel his pulse, for he was morally sure he must be in danger of the *symptomatic* advances of a fever.

I am afraid, sir, returned the justice, *you* are more in danger of the *symptomatic* advances of *Bedlam*. O ! ay, cried the doctor, 'tis absolutely so, the fever is making its approaches apace upon the animal spirits, 'tis evident from these rambling ideas, towards the palace of lunacy, the next step will be its taking entire possession of the whole *cerebrum*. Why, returned the justice, what the devil ails the man ? I have frequently seen and heard of mad *doctors*, but never before met

met with a doctor *mad*. The 'squire now waxing pretty near a state of ebriety, cried, by the *Wrekin*--uh! I think you are---uh! both mad; (and filling a bumper said) here---uh! here's to your *botb*---uh! being sent to *Bedlam*---uh! with all my heart, and every phy---phy-fi-cian, lawyer---uh! and parson in the kingdom.

By this time its very probable the reader is grown a little tired of some part of his company; but don't let him be too impatient, he is on the brink of being brought into better. A servant came into the room, with the compliments of the ladies, to know if any of the gentlemen chose coffee or tea, for that they were just setting down to them. This was an opportunity not to be neglected by the young lovers, who immediately said, they would wait upon them, as did the clergyman, whose absence they would very well have dispensed with; and yet, as circumstances afterwards occurred, he proved no unwelcome acquaintance.

C H A P. VIII.

Contains a tea-table conversation upon several unfashionable topics.

WE shall leave the remaining tenants of the Parlor, for some time longer, to the care of the butler, and introduce the reader

reader to the tea-table, where, if he has more regard to good-breeding, sense and delicacy, than to the jargon of pedants, fots and glutons, he'll be better entertained; for the conversation did not only differ from the table I have just relieved him, but from most other tea-tables in the kingdom, not turning upon light inconsiderable subjects and fashionable fooleries, but topics rational and interesting; or, if the foibles of any were accidentally touched upon, they were the objects only of pity; or, at most, an easy, genteel railery, unmingled with spleen.

Meliora told the gentlemen, their good-breeding, in obeying her summons to the tea-table, she was conscious, must have a good deal disconcerted the company below, and deprived them of a very essential part of their entertainment. Not in the least, madam, replied the clergyman, for though we are highly obliged for the compliment you have paid us, the majority, I believe, of those gentlemen are not less pleased with the occasion than we are-- No, I'll answer for it, replied the elder of the brothers, our loss is little regretted; for, to confess the truth, we were of no more consequence than other *cypbers*, merely to increase the number. Three *cypbers*, answered Meliora, as you are pleased to term yourselves, struck off from a more extensive account, would make a very considerable reduction of its value; and since dinner, I assure you, Felicia and I have been

been making very shrewd remarks upon your whole set, my papa not excepted ; for tho' he has as few *faults* as any of you, I know he has some *particularities*, I could wish to see removed. Alfred replied, whatever particularities might be pointed out in him, they all vanished in reflecting he was the father of Meliora. She returned, I am at a loss now, whether I ought to regard that speech of yours as a *compliment* or a *rebuke* ; for certainly if *you*, who are an indifferent person, consider him in that light, I, who am so immediately concerned in that merit you ascribe to him, should be blind to his very *errors*, if he had any ; but I promise you, as we were not ill-naturedly severe upon any of you *there*, we were peculiarly tender ; but after all of you had passed in review, under the inspection of our sage judgments, we were both most terribly perplexed to know, what constituted that amazing difference so conspicuous in the behaviour and address of men, who from their stations in life must have been pretty equal, one would imagine, in their education, and their general resort of company ; yet, that *some* should apparently have received no improvement from such an advantage, but persevere in a continued series of empty amusements, coarse manners, and irregular morals ; and *others*, who are frequently under the necessity of associating with them, never contract the slightest blemish, but in the whole of their conversation

sation distinguish themselves by a polite address, knowledge of men and books, and every other qualification becoming a gentleman; how in the name of wonder is this to be accounted for?

Madam, replied the clergyman, I imagine there are two very plausible ways of accounting for it; certainly nature is not equally benignant to all, she has her *partialities*, but then it must be admitted *men* have their *passions*, which more frequently pervert her laws than she herself does.

Well, returned Meliora, we won't have it reasoned upon now, it will make us too serious; for though I have gone thus far, I have more disposition to turn out of the road and get into the gay fields of mirth and raillery. The clergyman told her, she was so equally qualified for both, it would be difficult to determine which she excelled in. Oh! cried Meliora, I positively can never get out of your debt, but by *precisely* returning you your own compliment; I have frequently received proofs of your abilities in *serious* matters, but never have had so smart an instance of your talents in *private raillery*. I vow, madam, returned he, you never heard me utter a more serious truth in your life. Why, replied Meliora, if you were not a married man, I should really imagine you intended to make love to me. Well, madam, returned he, and if I were *not* a married man, and in a condition of life to countenance it, I should think

think it the highest reproach to my taste, if I did *not* make love to you. Well said my little *Levite*, cried Meliora's lover, thy open frankness of heart charms me, and infinitely the more, in so exactly corresponding with my own in your just admiration of that lady. Nay, answered the other, when you are better acquainted with my sentiments, neither you nor the lady will be under so mighty an obligation to me as perhaps you imagine, for I am too general a lover to deserve any peculiar regard; and *that* lady (turning to Felicia) has an equal claim to my admiration, with her friend or any other, where personal and mental charms are so amiably blended as in this family. Charles, addressing himself to Felicia, said, I think, madam, our becoming contracting parties to this new treaty of trust, our allies have entered into with this gentleman, is a measure no less salutary for the future establishment of *our* state than *theirs*; the oeconomy of every happy government depending on the sanction and cement given by men of his function, and for whose becoming our *future* auxiliary, my brother, I make no doubt, opened this *congress* of confidence. Treaties, sir, replied Felicia, where there is a manifest disparity in the riches and power of some of the parties, should be maturely weighed while they are on the carpet, and not concluded but with the calmest and most deliberate reflection, lest those princes, whose powers are *weak*, should afterwards be considered

sidered as very *injudicially* called into the alliance. Oh ! madam, returned Charles, the alliances with many princes are warmly courted, not from the funds of *treasure* they are possessed of, but the happy situation of the dominions they inherit, their known prudence and wisdom, and the powerful forces they bring into the field. Well ! interrupted Meliora, this is positively a prettier *mélange* of war, politics and love, than was ever devised by the first connoisseurs in any of those profound arts, and must be acknowledged by them all to have been conducted with great facility and speed, for it seems to be almost completed as soon as commenced ; yet had a little more time been expended in the transacting it, there's a high probability its consequences would prove happier, and its existence of a longer duration.

Here a servant entered the room, to let the brothers know the company below was breaking up, and that two or three gentlemen of *their* neighbourhood desired to know, if they would do them the pleasure of being of their party homeward ; though inclination pleaded strongly to refuse, prudence prompted a compliance to this message, and they took leave of the ladies, till the next pleasurable meeting, with as much reluctance as I do of the reader till the next chapter.

CHAP. IX.

An inviting conversation between the two ladies.

TO begin a new chapter with a new day, I imagine, will be thought more uniform than to have opened it with the evening's conversation of Sir Edward, his daughter, and Felicia, which not turning upon matters very interesting or material we have omitted, to rise with the sun and the ladies, whose slumbers, though by no means unpleasing, were, notwithstanding, short and transitory, because attended with a violent impatience, extremely natural, of mutually conferring upon the eclairsissement their lovers had the day before come to.

Meliora entered the apartment of Felicia, just at the time she was preparing to have paid the same kind of visit; the reciprocal knowledge of the motive to their being thus early up, and drest, drew from each a conscious smile they both perfectly understood; when Felicia falling into the natural gravity of her disposition said, my dear Meliora, how different have been the sentiments which have occasioned our meeting at this unusual hour, and the ideas which have filled the intermediate time since our parting. Meliora, with an air of more than common gaiety, replied, no, no, my dear, our *ideas*, I'll answer for it, have been precisely the same, but the *objects* have

have indeed been different, or mercy on us ! what miserable mortals should we have met this morning, to have exchanged a mutual confidence and faithful *friendship*, for the irreconcilable and hated situation of *rivals* ? *Felicia* sighing said, alas, *Meliora* ! what has thus inspired *you* with gaiety, and given you this spirit of railery, has thrown *me* into ten thousand anxious sollicitudes and reflections, and my fate, till now, never appeared to me inauspicious or severe ; can there, in all the malice of inveterate stars, be found a state so fraught with misery as mine, whose humble lot has almost ranked me with the lowest ; yet partially impelled, by the resistance laws of tyrant *love*, presumptuously has soothed a passion in my breast for one as far above my hopes as my desert ? My dear, replied *Meliora*, what my opinion of your *desert* is, I won't put you under any confusion by describing ; yet that your *hopes* ought to be as rationally founded, I *will* venture to assert---- what in the name of *cupid* and his quiver could you have wished for more from his indulgence---when he let fly the shaft that wounded *you*, was not his bow *benevolently* charged with another levelled point-blank at the breast of the *very man* where you wished the direction ?---indeed child, you use the little divinity most irreligiously, and deserve to be excommunicated for ingratitude. Oh ! my dear *Meliora*, answered *Felicia*, I own the arguments that ought to administer delight and

and transport to *another* breast, in *mine* but furnish forth inquietude and anxious fears, but fears for him I love more than myself, lest when his passion for this *beggar* reaches the knowledge of his capricious uncle---but wherefore did I say capricious? in his objections to so unequal an alliance, he will with justice be esteemed most uniform, and acting by the rules of strict propriety; therefore if the constancy and truth of Charles's *heart* are correspondent with the language which his *eyes* long since declared, what will prove the tortments of his generous soul, when he receives the harsh commands of an adopting parent, to banish from his breast the indigent, distressed, undone Felicia? but these are punishments which heaven inflicts with wisdom, and with equity, on those who daringly presume to harbor passions ill suited to their state; yet if its anger falls on *me*, and justly punishes the pride of looking up beyond the limits it prescribed, should the humility, benevolence, and lowliness of Charles's condescending heart raise its resentful arm against *him*, and mutually involve us both in the predicament? My dear, cried Meliora, but that I know you incapable of disguising your sentiments, I should really conclude, notwithstanding this tragic declaration of yours, that you did not care six-pence for this man---why, your lovers, child, who are in down right sober sadness such, are never known to have one grain of wise penetration, or deep forecast

forecast about *fortune*, the resentment of angry *fathers*, or any such chimerical stuff; but if they have got full possession of the dear man's heart, leave all contingencies to chance; I have known an apoplexy vastly kind and civil to lovers, who happened a little unequal in the scurvy distributions of fortune; and, let me tell you, if I have been rightly informed of the phlegmatic disposition of this same uncle of Mr. Herald's, the odds are very considerable on your side, that a *pissol*, or a dose of *posson*, may charitably send him to rest with his illustrious ancestors.

Here Meliora's woman came running into the room with two letters in her hand, almost as much out of wind as the horse that conveyed them, who had been whipped and spurred into expedition for their arrival before the old gentleman, Sir Edward, was stirring; and at the same time, the rider was charged with no inconsiderable bribe to the *fille de chambre* for their secret delivery; who, with a mixed affectation of joy and fear, cried, lord! madam, here's certainly some very *charming* or *terrible* news for you both, ladies; a footman, just alighted at the gate, brought these two letters; Letters! interrupted Meliora, from whom? nay, madam, replied the breathless Abigail---uh! uh! a wiser head than mine must inform your ladyship of that---uh! uh! I was so impatient to bring them, I never enquired who they came from---nor did not even mind---uh! uh! the footman's

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livery---but to say the truth, that's no more discernable than the colour of his horse---one is all over mire, and the other foam. Well, cried Meliora, leave us, and go down, and see the fellow who brought them is taken care of, and get things ready for breakfast in my apartment. This necessary impertinent withdrawn, Meliora said, well, my dear, by that sudden alteration of your features, I perceive you give a shrewd guess at this brace of authors; but have you spirits to break the seal, and be satisfied before breakfast? to confess ingenuously, my hopes and fears have made such a bustle in my breast, I don't know how to go about being resolved, till I have recovered a few spirits by the help of a little tea, if it is not ready I shall be out of all patience---come my dear. Here the ladies withdrawing into another room for the contents, as well as authors of these letters, I cannot possibly give any account of them, but in another chapter.

CH A P. X.

In which the reader will meet with some uncommon reflections.

THOSE who peruse these memoirs, that are lovers of the *honourable* stamp, and pay more regard to their mistresses *personal* merits than any acquisitions of *fortune*, will

will readily form to themselves very full ideas of the letters mentioned in the last chapter, when they are informed they came from Alfred and Charles; such who are mere *marriage-jobbers*, and make their contracts for convenience, will be apt to laugh at and despise sentiments so widely different from their own; therefore the author thinks it necessary only to give some few general hints of their purport, and not take up the time of his readers, of the first class, in giving them copies of their own hearts; nor that of the latter, by any recital so point-blank opposite to theirs.

Both letters contained the highest sentiments of love and honor, delivered in a style that became men of virtue, truth and goodness, and were received with the regard they so justly demanded; yet all the professions of honor, and unalterable constancy, made in Charles's letter, while they fanned the flame in Felicia's breast, still the more alarmed the fears, she but too justly suggested, of the insurmountable objections that would arise to impede her wished-for happiness; nor could the rallery or consolation offered by Meliora mitigate her griefs, they were too substantially founded for the aid of either, and had reason for their basis.

The true characteristic of women of merit is a gentle softness, blended with a lively sense and perception; where these are united in the same breast, they support it above the

tumults occasioned in others, by the adventurous strokes of fortune, with a meekness and resignation those mixed qualities of the mind naturally dictate. A woman of this happy cast can, with great tranquillity, give up the exterior ornaments of pomp and splendor, the pride of equipage, with the multiplicity of vanities too many of her sex are so inviolably attached to ; but when the heart of such a woman is unfortunately possessed with a passion for a man of honor and merit, that passion mutually returned, yet the dangers and difficulties of its happy completion appearing to *her* inevitable and substantially solid, and those impediments centering solely in her, that quick sensibility of her perceptions furnishes every affecting idea of despondency, and the softness of her disposition, renders her unequal to the supporting such racking reflections.

Of this mould was the distressed Felicia, of too found an understanding to sooth herself with precarious prospects and delusive hopes, yet of too flexible and tender a disposition to surmount the griefs *that* understanding painted in such calamitous colours. When she retired to her chamber, she wrote the following letter to Mr. Herald.

SIR,

SIR,

THOUGH thoroughly conscious in this act I make a very essential breach of those laws, custom and decorum have laid down, for regulating the conduct of women who would be ranked in the list of the discreet and virtuous, yet I cannot but be persuaded there may occur such a crisis as may make it consistent with the strictest rules of honor and justice, which ought at least to be put in the balance, if not outweigh, whatever *custom* may have prescribed. That such a crisis now exists, your letter and former concurring testimonies make manifest; for I have too high an opinion of your integrity to doubt their truth; and believe me, when I assure you most solemnly, I place their validity to that account, and not a mistaken consciousness of my own merit: no, sir, 'tis from a too sensible conviction of the injudicious error of your passion I have been induced to commit this violence to my sex, I had almost said to my sentiments, in conjuring you to desist, ere it be too late, in the pursuit of a passion that cannot but bring with it a train of inevitable miseries, since it must be attended with the violation of your duty to that parent to whom you are bound to pay an implicit obedience, by the laws of nature, gratitude and heaven. I will not offend your delicacy in urging those of interest and dependency, though each consideration, abstractedly, ought

to have its prevalence against making a sacrifice of it to an impetuous passion for *one* whose single desert is, that she dreads *your* indigence more than she regrets *that* of the

unfortunate

FELICIA—

The sending this letter without the privacy of Meliora, she concluded would be a breach, not only of prudence but of friendship, therefore determined to take her opinion upon it, not only from the regard she had to her candor, but judgment, who, in her sentiments upon it, gave very distinguishing marks of both, which she delivered to this effect. I highly applaud, my dear Felicia, your exalted ideas of integrity and honor, but if *you* are persuaded, as I must confess I fully am, that Mr. Herald's pretensions are the result of an unfeigned passion, and imagine this letter will in any degree dissipate those tender thoughts, and prove the means to smother his *ill-concerted* love, as you, with too delicate a diffidence, have termed it, I must, I own, widely dissent from you; and if his regards could need any new motives to fix and unalterably root them, you are pursuing the most effectual measures for that purpose: how must his breast glow with additional transport, in discovering the beauties of the woman's *mind*, he fondly loves, rise in proportion

proportion to those of her *person*? I am *myself* charmed with the elevation of your thinking, and believe me, dear child, the warmest sensibility *friendship* feels, falls infinitely short of the more enlarged ideas *love* creates. If *my* affections toward you, which I scarce thought capable of an increase, are, by this new instance of such unparalleled frankness of soul, raised beyond their former bounds, what limits can be prescribed to *his*, for whom alone this amiable virtue is exerted?

Why, replied Felicia, does my dear Meliora imagine Mr. Herald a man of so slightly an understanding, to be incapable of seriously reflecting upon those unhappy consequences that must inevitably attend his pursuit of this fatal passion? Quite the reverse, returned Meliora, had I not considered him as a man of sense, I should form very different ideas of him; were addressees of this kind made from such a creature as the notable 'quire in whose company we were yesterday, and with whom, at other times, have been too frequently mortified, your letter, 'tis highly probable, might have its desired effect; for fools, if they happen to feel any thing that *resembles passions*, they are never fixed or permanent, but men of sense have a generous pride in rising against any torrent of opposition that interferes with that choice which has honor for its support-- Then my dear, answered Felicia, you would advise me not to send this letter? No, no, returned Meliora, not so neither, the letter has

has too much merit to be thrown away ; and though it has as little probability of success, as the best penned prescription of the ablest physician, when the last symptoms of death are upon the patient, yet you know, child, *humanity* dictates to use all possible means in his *power*, not to say a syllable of his *fee*.

How, my dear Meliora, answered Felicia, can you rally upon so serious a subject ? Why, returned the other, love and matrimony *are* serious subjects I confess ; but, pr'ythee child, throw off a little of that terrible solemnity of countenance, and consider this matter with less severity of thought ; I'll allow you to be *serious*, but not one grain of *despondency* : let us take a turn or two in the garden, and consider of ways and means for a proper conveyance of this same letter, which shall positively be sent, though I by no means give my consent upon *your* principles, but point-blank the reverse ; for I would no more take one step that should contribute to *his* cure, than I would toward that of his brother's, and, my life on't, they are both of the opinion of Torrismond ; *they cannot, nay, they wish not to be cured*. And so let's away to the garden, and our consultation.

An unlucky mistake; the consequences of it.

THE letter mentioned in the last chapter was committed to the care of a young neighbouring farmer, of more honesty than penetration; and though great pains had been taken to inform his judgment, and give him ample instruction for the acquitting himself properly in his negotiation, a very untoward accident attended the transacting it.

Notwithstanding he had been strictly charged, by both the ladies, to deliver the letter into no hand but that of Mr. Charles Herald, he was unfortunately led into the error of delivering it to a servant of his uncle's, who was arrived at Sir Harry's about two hours before him. Upon the farmer's alighting in the stable-yard he met this footman, of whom he enquired for Mr. Charles Herald, who told him he was his servant, and would deliver any message he was charged with. The farmer replied, he had no message, but a letter, which he had directions to give into his own hand. The fellow told him *that* would be impracticable for some time, for the fatigue of his journey had obliged him to lie down, and it would not be extremely safe to disturb him, but if he would trust *him* with it, he would deliver it the instant he rose. With this the farmer complied,

complied, imagining him the servant of the young gentleman for whom the letter was intended, being as ignorant as the reader is hitherto that he was named after his uncle, and the servant really imagined the letter intended for his master, to whom, upon his rising, he delivered it; and the farmer returned, concluding, though he had not precisely followed the directions given him, yet he had transacted his business very notably, in not being observed by any body but the gentleman's servant, and that his waiting might have been attended with some inconvenience; nor were the ladies at all alarmed, upon his assuring them he had given the letter into the hands of his own servant, and had been seen by no other person about the house. But alas! their security was a little premature, and a few days unfolded the fatal mistake.

Mr. Charles Herald the elder, upon reading this letter, immediately concluded it intended for his nephew, against whom he conceived the warmest resentment, for daring to enter into an engagement of that kind, without his approbation and advice, but more especially into one so unequal and pernicious to his interest.

He immediately shewed the letter to Sir Harry, who was not less agitated than himself, though from a different motive, *his* resentment arising from the *meanneſs* and *obscurity* of her *deſcent*, and her father's having been

been contaminated with *trade*, which, to the other, would have proved no kind of objection, had it been attended with its frequent fortune and opulence; but *poverty* was an insurmountable impediment, not to be got over by birth, beauty, or any other imagined merit.

Mr. Herald asked Sir Harry, if he had ever received any intimation of this pernicious engagement of his son's, and who the person was he had thus precipitately placed his heart with? The other told him, he had never, till that instant, conceived any remote imagination, that either of his sons could possibly form to themselves ideas of so *abject* a nature, to mingle their blood in channels debased by *traffic*, and the indelible blots of *business*: as to the *person*, he supposed it must be a young creature the daughter of a deceased merchant, who dying almost insolvent, his neighbour, Sir Edward Haunch, had taken into his family as a companion to his daughter, and whose name corresponded with that subscribed to the letter. What, returned Mr. Herald, your families I suppose then visit each other, and from thence this ill-concerted passion has been contracted? Sir Harry said, their visits were not very frequent; for his neighbour, though a very worthy good kind of man, and of a very considerable fortune, yet was of too *modern* a creation for a Family of their *antiquity* to engage in any intimacy beyond what the forms of good-breeding prescribed;

scribed, and but for that most *just and rational* objection, he had entertained some thoughts of proposing an alliance for his eldest son with the daughter of that gentleman; since what related to fortune, and that which the *world* esteemed prudent, there could not impediment lie. Well, replied his brother, I wish, for Charles's sake, there lay no other in the way, but that absurd one of *family* and *birth*, which I am astonished a man of your sense should so long continue thus ridiculously attached to: will *family* feed a man's servants and horses? or pay off the mortgage of his estate? *that* indeed sometimes has happened, but then it has been at the *inestimable* price (as you consider it) of sacrificing to the millions of fortune the mighty pride of *blood* and *birth*. But no more of this stuff---let us immediately consider upon measures to stop the progress of this rash, inconsiderate boy's passion; which if we cannot effect, I shall totally reverse the settlement I have made upon him, and let him try if the pride of his *family*, or the *beauty* of his *mistress*, will maintain themselves or their future brats. And from me, replied Sir Harry, let him form no expectation, since he has thus *meanly* departed from the unfulfilled honor of his *ancestors*.

Some slight debates arose between these gentlemen, which of them should undertake the admonishing the young lover, and both seemed backward in undertaking the task. Mr. Herald urged it as a duty incumbent upon

upon Sir Harry as a father ; *be* in return said, he was more immediately under the influence of his uncle who had adopted him, and upon whom not only his present but future fortune solely depended. After some little time spent upon this occasion, it was determined, that the *uniting* the weight of their authority was the most probable method of its proving effectual, and for that purpose retired to Sir Harry's study, where the offender was summoned to appear.

CH A P. XII.

A conversation between pride, avarice, and love, in the persons of Sir Harry, Mr. Herald, and Charles.

SIR Harry and his brother determined, before they proceeded to their remonstrance with young Mr. Herald, that Felicia's letter should be new-sealed and sent him ; which when done, and time allowed for the reading it, a servant was dispatched to desire his attendance in the study, where, when he entered and was seated, his uncle told him, with all the appearance of ease and good-humour he could muster up, that his father and he had sent for him to have his sentiments upon a very serious subject ; and they made no doubt he would deliver them with that open and ingenuous freedom and truth,

truth, which had hitherto been so remarkable in the whole conduct of his life.

He told them, he feared he was but little capable of throwing any new lights upon a subject *they* had deliberated, and remained doubtful in the determination of.

Oh ! returned his father, 'tis not your capacity of *judgment* we want any proofs of, but that of your *integrity* and *honor* ; it is to be frankly resolved, whether you have yet seriously turned your thoughts toward marriage ; and if so, of what *condition* and *family* the woman is who has attracted your regard. And, interrupted the uncle, give me leave to add sir, of what *fortune* she is ? for *that*, let me tell you, with *me*, is a more essential circumstance.

These questions, though closely urged, yet could never have been put at a more critical time to draw forth a frank and explicit answer ; for Felicia's letter (correspondent with the prophetic spirit of *Meliora*) had added fresh fuel to a flame that stood in no need of receiving increase ; and if his ideas of her *personal* charms were before raised to the utmost extent, those of her exalted *mind* had now filled him with an almost enthusiastic reverence and awe, which possessed him with an opinion, that to disavow a passion for an object of such elevated worth and merit, would not only betray a want of just discernment and taste, but of that truth and honor he had ever held sacred, and had so solemnly engaged

engaged to Felicia ; therefore, with a steady calm resolution, he addressed his father and uncle in the following words. I have ever held departing from the rules of strict truth, even on the *slightest* occasions, a meanness that renders contemptible the *lowest* class of mankind, and in those who move in a *higher* sphere, it betrays a narrowness of heart which levels them with the most abject ; but when the heart is challenged in matters of *higher* import, not to strip it of every subtle, artful disguise, and lay it naked before those who plead a right to view its most secret recesses, were a manifest breach of every law, divine and human ; what force then is *added* to the strict observance of those laws, when we are called upon by the powerful, the tender names of *father* and of *uncle* ; an uncle ! who so beneficently has become a *second father* ? How abandoned, how insensible to every bond of gratitude and duty must the breast be, that in the minutest article should deviate into falshood ? Let me then in contempt of every interested view, and with a regard most truly filial, discover to you, *that* which I much dread you will not behold in a *prudential* light ; yet, give me leave to indulge myself in the hope you will feel with a *parental sympathy* ; and though your *pardon* should not be obtained, yet both, in tenderness, will grant your *pity*. I have, unwarranted by the previous sanction of your advice or knowledge, given up that freedom of my choice, you

you both had so indisputable a right to exact concurrence in.

His uncle, warmly interrupting him, said, How! how's that, sir? what, are you married then? and was the letter you just now received intended first to fall into my hands as the means of disclosing this pernicious union? No, sir, returned the nephew, I am much above those little arts, and if I yet hold the place in your confidence and trust I hitherto have done, you will banish all doubts, when I affirm to you, by the hope I have of retaining that credit, *I am not married*. Here Sir Harry interrupting him, said, thank heaven! then the *honor* of our house as yet is safe. It never, sir, replied his son, shall know the slightest taint from any act of mine.

What! returned his father, have you the audacity to make that bold assertion, whilst you avow a correspondence that must *contaminate* mine, your own, and the whole blood of your illustrious ancestry? Ay, sir, interrupted his uncle, and must inevitably *contaminate* you, your *Amaryllis*, and your *illustrious progeny*, with *penury* and *want*; for if you don't immediately disclaim all future commerce with this woman, I disclaim all future commerce with *you*, and will to-morrow adopt your brother; and so, sir, I leave you to the contemplation of your pillow, and till ten in the morning to deliberate upon it.

Which will give but little satisfaction to the tender-hearted reader.

HOW far the too grave and austere may be affected with the melancholy prospect that threatened the young lovers Charles and Felicia, I shall not venture to pronounce; but think it no difficult task to determine, what sensibility the *softer* and more *gentle* natures will be touched with, at those gathering clouds that hung over them, and seemed bursting in a tempest upon their heads; the rigor of which the next morning manifested itself, by the peremptory and fixed resolves of the father, uncle, and lover, abiding by the declarations each had made the preceding night.

Alfred expostulated with the warmest energy, tenderness of friendship, and paternal love, with his father and uncle, in mitigation of his brother's too *precipitate* engagement, as he found himself under a necessity of terming it, for a softer epithet would by no means have been digested by the old gentlemen. He represented to them, that love was an involuntary passion, against which both reason and philosophy in vain exerted their powers. Appealed to their own recollections, if they had not in their younger years felt its ungovernable sway, which swept before

before it every calmer and more deliberate suggestion, not content with less than the sole and universal dominion of the mind. And having heard his uncle's passion for Mrs. Britton formerly whispered in the family, he glanced, as *remotely* and *tenderly* as possible, upon it; by urging, that so tenacious of power was that little tyrant, that he had heard and read of instances, in which the eyes of *confidence*, *friendship*, and *honor*, had been violated by men, abstracted from this fatal infatuation, of the strictest morals, probity and truth; but so powerfully delusive are its charms, and so strongly rivetted its chains, the most manly and determined efforts become vain and fruitless.

Here, perceiving his uncle's countenance changing, from resentment into languid reflection, which was followed by a smothered sigh, he closely pressed his argument, by strenuously enforcing the merits of his brother, as a man of unshaken virtue, integrity and honor, and that those principles shone as conspicuously in the *woman* with whom he so fondly sympathised; with the addition of *personal* beauties, a meekness and modesty of mind, too powerfully delicate for the intrusion even of vanity to dispossess.

This speech, thus pathetically delivered, reduced his uncle to a mitigation of the sentence he had pronounced; who told him, that could the resolutions he had formed admit of alteration, the arguments he had made

made use of, with such commendable and sanguine sensibility, might have effected their purpose; but though they were not forcible enough to *change* his determination, it should, from their influence, however, be some few days postponed, in order to see if *that* lenity would prevail upon his brother to curb and restrain his head-strong passion; but if he remained obstinate and fixed, he should find it repaid with the same unalterable and inflexible disposition in *him*: that there was no supporting the thought of an alliance with a *beggar's brat*--- because, forsooth, she happened to be tolerably handsome.--- It is, indeed, rejoined Sir Harry, a circumstance not to be dispensed with, as her *birth* and *family* are so utterly *obscure* and *mean*: had it been the daughter of Sir Edward, the matter might have admitted alleviation, and some degree of countenance, since the extent and weight of her *fortune* would have made a slender compensation for the limited and narrow channels of her *blood*, which though not dignified by *antiquity* has the sufferable sanction of *title*, and two or three *centuries*.

This declaration of Sir Harry's, attended with concessions Alfred so little expected he would ever have descended to, induced him to think this occasion the most favourable that could possibly occur, for opening to him his passion for Meliora; therefore addressing him in the following manner, said, The favorable sentiments, sir, you seem to hold
of

of the daughter of Sir Edward Haunch, in considering her as an object not wholly unworthy of my *brother's* choice, give me sufficient reason for hoping you will view her in the same light, when I tell you she is, of all the women I have yet beheld, the most desirable object of *mine*.

Sir Harry, after a long and very solemn pause, replied----Though the case is in no degree similar between *you* and your brother, since *his* pretensions to the honor our family has so many ages been dignified with is more remote, as being the second in descent, but upon *you*, continued he, whenever I am summoned to my illustrious ancestors, immediately devolve the trust and safeguard of that dignity which has hitherto been preserved from the smallest graft on a Plebeian stock, or any other less illustrious than its own; yet when I revolve the dangers which may attend *my* dissolution, without first discharging the duty incumbent on me of providing, by the most prudent measures, against the future extinction of our race, I am induced, for the preventing so fatal a period, to give some attention to your alliance with a family greatly unequal in its claims to such an honor; and more especially I may, 'tis possible, be influenced to repress what *honor* dictates, from a fond *parental* regard to the putting you into possession of a young lady for whom you profess such ardent wishes.

Alfred,

Alfred, with all the marks of grateful deference and duty, blended with a transport in his *face*, which evidently bespoke that of his *heart*, replied, I know not, sir, in what words to represent to you the affecting sentiments with which my breast is filled, for an indulgence that even my warmest wishes were too weak to ripen into hope. Sir Harry, interrupting him, said--Alfred, you are not less precipitate in your returns of gratitude, for my seeming concessions to your passion, than you were in the contracting it without my approbation and advice; I have only said, I may be induced to give some sort of *attention* to such an alliance, but *that* amounts not to a decision sufficient to raise in you these emotions of joy and exultation which I insist must be suspended, till time shall furnish me with leisure for more mature reflection. And during the intermediate space acquaint your brother with the resolutions his uncle and myself have taken, and advise him to humility and obedience; for without them, added Mr. Herald, *love* and *poverty* are like to prove his only Companions.

Of as much importance as the preceding one.

THE favourable disposition of Sir Harry toward Meliora was some alleviation of the inquietude Alfred felt for the impending fate of his *brother* and Felicia, for he was assured all remonstrances would prove vain and ineffectual to dispossess his bosom of those tender sentiments of passion he so ardently entertained; yet, in obedience to his father and uncle, he considered himself under the indispensable obligation of acquainting him with the commission they had given him in charge; which he executed in the softest and most gentle terms the humanity of his disposition, and the fixed inviolable regard he held toward his brother, could possibly admit; at the same time rendering him the consolation, by the most solemn and affectionate assurances, that whatever rigorous measures the petulancy of their uncle's temper might induce him to enter in to his disfavor, by transferring his future fortune from the one to the other, should ever be considered by him as an ill-judged act of power; and that his admitting the adoption to fall upon *him*, should be with no other purpose but that of re-conferring it the instant his uncle's death gave him the capacity of doing it. But the withdrawing the present appointment

ment now made him, was a circumstance which gave him infinite anxiety, because beyond his power to redress, or at least in the proportion he wished, from the too scanty pittance he received from their father; who by his mistaken prejudices, in favor of those phantoms *family* and *descent*, he found would never be wrought upon to be less inexorable than their uncle; therefore added, though he held hypocrisy in the meanest and most contemptible light, yet he could not but be of opinion there *were* instances so circumstanced, where *temporizing* might be consistent with the strictest rules of honor; and this, certainly, by every impartial judge, must be considered as *one*.---If duty and gratitude were debts nature exacted toward his uncle, the same nature as strictly called upon him, aided by the ties of love and honor, not to involve with himself the amiable object to whom he had pledged them, in a series of distress and misery, till heaven thought fit to call their uncle from the world.

Charles, embracing him with the utmost eagerness and warmth, said, my dear Alfred, to say I am *surprised* at this unequalled generosity of soul, in rejecting that large advancement of your fortune, the adoption of our uncle would possess you of, were to depreciate and lessen that continued circle of affecting proofs you have given from our earliest years, of the tenderest, and even more than *fraternal* friendship; nor have I
less

less sensibility and feeling, of those apprehensive fears you are actuated with, to prevent any distressful circumstance might fall on my Felicia; but I have already made so open and undisguised a declaration of my passion, that to recede, I am convinced, would appear to my father and uncle too thin and weak a pretext to gain the slenderest credit, therefore must wait the happier influence of my fortune, and patiently submit myself to her more indulgent moments. But I am now pressed with more *immediate* anxiety, the making Felicia acquainted with the fatal error of her letter's falling into the hands of my uncle.--How shall I rise to the resolution of disturbing that tender bosom with the inquietude which will inevitably attend her knowledge of it!--I have twice or thrice sat down to the attempt, but rose unequal to the task, disturbed, and too much ruffled by apprehensions of the pain her gentleness of mind must be subject to.----*There*, replied Alfred, I *doubly* sympathize, since Meliora, I am convinced, will largely partake in the generous solicitude.

After having retired to Alfred's apartment, (for this conversation occurred in the *park*) as a proper place for deliberating in, it was determined Alfred should write to Meliora, as not so immediately concerned in the unhappy disaster; and who was possessed of a larger share of spirits, and a proportioned discretion,

discretion, by easy degrees, to make her less volatile friend acquainted with it.

The reader perhaps will not be disgusted with the contents of this letter---which were as follows.

M A D A M,

HOW unequal are the ideas we form of the distributions of fate? could I have imagined its *severest* revolutions should bring round the period, when writing to Meliora could prove an *irksom* Task? yet such are its tyrannous decrees.

I am compelled to consider *that* as a severity, which on every other occasion would have administered the highest transport---but I am constrained to give Meliora pain---for she *will* partake her Friend's. Not to increase anxiety by suspense----Felicia's letter to my brother unhappily fell into my uncle's hands, who had arrived at my father's some short time before her messenger---- This has occasioned some warm resolutions from both my father and uncle, which poor Charles was himself incapable, from a too affecting sensibility, to communicate to Felicia; and my *friendship*, at his instance, has done this violence to my *love*, in supplicating you to undertake the mortifying, but friendly office, which both your good-sense and nature will readily dictate to you, of letting her know it in the gentlest and softest manner.

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But

But should I,---yes I *must*, rejoice at any incident though distressful to my *friends*, that furnished an occasion to expedite my happiness with Meliora, which, beyond my wishes, occurred in my expostulation with my father on the behalf of Charles--- but let me reserve the pleasure of descending into the particulars of it, till some kinder star directs the fortune of our friends, and renders mutual cause for gratulation on *their* felicity with that of Meliora and

the ever faithful

ALFRED.

The disaster, the above letter gives an account of, was not considered by Meliora in so calamitous a light as the two brothers seemed to view it, she, reflecting upon the discovery of Charles's passion to his father and uncle as an incident that *must* occur, deemed it rather as a *favorable* presage, than fraught with the *imagined* danger and inconvenience. For in communicating its contents to Felicia, instead of treating the subject with a desponding countenance and air, she rallied upon it with great ease and pleasantry; telling her, that violent opposition to the *mental* flames kindled by Cupid, like oil applied to the *material*, served only to *increase* what it purposed *destroying*, and to expose the precipitant folly and ignorance of the

the officious meddlers. And believe me, my dear, continued she, this busy impertinent uncle of Charles's, when he has teized and fretted him into a fever (which if I have any skill in these matters, I'll lay my life will prove the case) then will he throw his whole estate, and *you*, into his possession, to bring about his cure--- Oh! these very terrible hasty mortals, like incensed prudes, proclaim destructive war with their *tongues*, while their *hearts* secretly incline to salutary peace.

Felicia told her, though she knew she would be as pleasant upon the opinion she held of this *discovery* of her letter as she had been upon the effects of *sending it*, yet *she* continued so sanguine in the success she wished from *both*, that what the one might not, perhaps, *boldly* accomplish, yet would so far pre-pare her lover's more sedate reflection, that the *other* would establish in its fullest extent.--O! ay, replied Meliora, *sedate reflection* is certainly a most notable advocate, and from its sage mouth I expect the *old gentleman* will by-and-by receive a gentle whisper of admonition; but to imagine it will make a fruitless attempt upon a *sprightly lover of two-and-twenty*, is no more to be expected, than a *sans prendre vole* when *Spadille* is out of your hand---Or to expect, replied Felicia, you would relinquish the kind assistance of your friends, when even the most distant hope had neglectingly forsok them. Ay, returned Meliora, or that I should longer relinquish an opportunity of

answering my lover's letter, when I am a tip-toe to go about it, and he in longing expectation of receiving it. Therefore come into my closet, and tell me what I shall say, for you are, at least, *equally* concerned.

CH A P. XV.

A visit intended, and to whom.

SIR Harry and his brother, after many deliberations upon what measures might prove most effectual for preventing the progress of Charles's passion, united in opinion, that Felicia's removal out of Sir Edward Haunch's family appeared the most probable measure, but the accomplishment of it was considered by both, as attended with difficulty; since it would appear a very extraordinary request, to banish a distressed young creature, from a gentleman's family, who had humanely taken her, an almost helpless orphan, under his protection and care; and if abandoned by *him*, must inevitably be exposed to the insults and miseries of an unfeeling world. These were cruelties they were very justly apprehensive would be charged to *their* account, and such as their *natural* dispositions were enemies to. Yet such as the pride of *one*, and gloomy habits of the *other*, induced them to reflect on with too little candor, and out-balanced the tender dictates of nature.

Nor was *public censure* the sole impediment that arose, the manner of making application to Sir Edward Haunch for her removal employed much of their speculation. When after revolving on many expedients, Sir Harry said, the only effectual one he could suggest, was a proposition of marriage between his eldest son and Sir Edward's daughter, and stipulating the dismissal of Felicia as a previous condition. This the baronet asserted as a concession, so *honourably advantageous* to Sir Edward, he could not hesitate an instant in his compliance.

Mr. Herald approved of the measures proposed by Sir Harry, though not from the same motives, concluding Sir Edward might, indeed, consider it in an *advantageous* light; but as to the *honourable* light he might view it in, he imagined Sir Edward and himself would pay it a similar regard.

He proposed going thither the next morning, but Sir Harry objected to the indecorum of paying a visit, especially on so *momentous* an occasion, without the previous notice of a day at least; therefore a servant was dispatched to Sir Edward, to acquaint him in form, that Sir Harry Herald, and his *brother*, intended themselves the favor of paying him an afternoon's visit the following day.

This occasioned some speculation from Sir Edward, as he was well acquainted with the reserve and particularity of Sir Harry's disposition, and the more so, since to his

brother he was an entire stranger. But when the young *ladies* were made acquainted with this intended visit, *they* were not long in deliberating upon its purposes, and though Meliora had her fears for Felicia, she no less benevolently, than artfully, covered them with the veil of hope, telling her the old gentlemen were positively coming to propose publishing the bands of marriage of the *swains*, their *sons*, with the *nymphs* that presided in those plains; adding, I vow, child, I am in a terrible twitter about it; and, in the name of love and hymen! my dear, what kind of spirits do *you* find yourself in?

My spirits, replied Felicia, keep their current with my fortune, which is too low and humble for those emotions *hope* suggests.---- But though despondency witholds their animating flow, towards every pleasing prospect that relates to *me*, yet *friendship* gives them warmth, from the enlivening view of *your* approaching happiness with Alfred; for rest assured, my dear Meliora, the subject of his letter is *that*, of to-morrows visit from his father and uncle.

Well! returned Meliora, I am as perfectly persuaded of that, as you can possibly be, but will never be brought to suppose they come with a marriage-contract in *one* Hand, and a divorce in *'other*, 'twould be as absurd as a fiddle at a funeral.

The conversation was interrupted, by a visit from a neighbouring lady and her two daughters,

daughters, the mother and sisters of Mr. Scent, mentioned in a former chapter, and may be recollected by the reader as a very shining example of politeness, eloquence, and equity, which were so amply displayed at the table of Sir Edward Haunch; and though I am thus ironically ludicrous with the *male* line of the squire's family, yet to its *female* branches let me be as justly grave. In the dispensations of nature in this family, she seems to have turned out of her usual course, bestowing upon the *daughters*, the sprightly abilities and good sense of the *father*, and on the *son* the impertinent loquacity and tyrannic disposition of the *mother*.

The reader perhaps will be apt to say, (when I have recited to him the tea-table chat of this visit) I might have saved myself the trouble of this information, and that the characters better illustrate themselves than my animadversions. But I am one of those kind of authors, who like our great predecessor, Shakespear, have an amazing redundancy of *fancy*, and am an utter enemy to *expunging* any of the children of my own brain. Perhaps some of my readers will be apt to say, with one of our tragic poets,

'Twere better far they never had been born---

Why that may be, but then let them consider, had that been the case, *my* vanity, and *their*

their spleen, had both lost their gratification. Therefore, that neither may want a sufficient meal, I shall proceed with my relation in the following chapter.

CH A P. XVI.

Some new characters introduced to the readers acquaintance.

MRS. Scent was a widow of about *forty-five*, with as little knowledge, and as large a portion of vanity and affectation, as generally attends *fifteen*; had been a little acquainted with the *beau-monde*, but had acquired only its most remarkable *foibles*; therefore, without the salutations decency and good-breeding require, her conversation opened in a torrent of complaints of different kinds.---The weather was unufferably warm!--How could they endure the fire, that was large enough to dress a dinner for the high-sheriff at an assize?---besides, it was the most hurtful thing in nature to the complexion.---For her part, she never suffered her daughters to come near a fire, the coldest day in the year, in *her* presence.---It made them utterly unfit for the bustling affairs of a family, which, indeed, they were not very fond of attending, and were always happiest when they could get into their own chambers to read a parcel of fiddle-faddle *books*, that spoiled

spoiled all the *housewives* in the kingdom.— She could not conceive what business *women* had with books, a *notable* body would find employment enough about a house without *reading*; it was good for little, but making both the women and the men a parcel of drones, and look, and talk, like so many witches and wizards.— Why now, there was her boy, Dicky, he seldom troubled his head about such *stuff*, and had a better constitution, and a more ruddy, healthful countenance, than half the gentlemen of the county; and yet he had as *much* to say in company, as the best of them that could prattle Greek and Latin. Nay, he was not behind hand with them in those, but he thought it unbecoming a *gentleman*, and only fit for the parson of the parish.

Meliora said, she had received repeated instances of Mr. Scent's remarkable talents in conversation, both at her father's table, and the assembly at Shrewsbury, where nobody made a more *distinguished* figure, always rising superior to the narrow assistance of *books*, and became conspicuous, only, from those endowments *nature* has so liberally bestowed. O, yes! replied the youngest of the sisters, *nature* has been most amazingly bountiful to my ingenious brother, she has given him an astonishing retentive faculty, in remembering the names of his own and every other gentleman's *dogs* in the country, with most *powerful* lungs, and an amazing

facility

facility of conversing, almost at any distance, with them.

But Pray, interrupted the elder, don't let him be robbed of *any* of those qualities he so justly deserves. Why have you omitted his vast knowledge in *others* of the animal creation, as horses, hares, deers, foxes, badgers, otters, &c. &c. As to that hidden knowledge my mamma supposes him to have with the Greeks and Latins, he is so horrid a churl, not only of his acquaintance with *them*, but of his English intimacies, if he has contracted any, that he has never once suffered us to be one jot the better for his familiarity with them. No! truly, replied the mother, to what purpose? to set your brains a madding after this and that author, (as your poor father, I think, used to call the people that write) 'till you pore yourselves into conjectures as he did, like a madman as he was. For my part, I never understood half the stuff he used to prate over, when he got into his talking vein, with any of his companions, that he was so violently fond of, as men of great *abilities* and *parts*, as he called them.

Felicia said, she had always imagined it one of the most eligible parts of a gentleman's character, to be properly distinguished for his knowledge in men and books. Ay! replied Mrs. Scent, it may do very well for *younger brothers*, or poor paltry *parsons* and *lawyers*,

lawyers, that are to get their *bread* by their books, but she saw no use it could be of to men of *fortune*, that lived independent of the world. If they understood *accounts*, and the value of *lands*, to prevent their stewards cheating and getting estates under them, or had reading enough to preside at a quarter-sessions, it was sufficient to prevent impositions, and draw a proper respect from the country where they resided. Had Mr. Scent gone no farther, he had been alive at this hour, and I had not been perpetually pester'd with the solicitations of impertinent people to change my condition. Well! I am really astonished women are generally so fond of admirers, every thing they say to one is nothing but a parcel of studied cant they get by rote, ready upon every occasion, and which serves the old and ugly, as well as the beautiful and young; is equally credited by both, and often delivered with equal sincerity.

Why, madam, replied Meliora, I believe *that* may sometimes be the case, where a swinging jointure or overgrown fortune is in the scale; but there are instances, I imagine, where youth and beauty have outweighed every other consideration, than that of their own intrinsic merit. O, cried the younger Miss Scent, I make no doubt my mamma recollects the period, when she was convinced her lovers paid their tribute more to the *personal charms* nature endowed her with, than those *fortune* had conferred.

Why,

Why, returned the mother, I must indeed acknowledge, I *have* received very ample proofs of a disinterested passion in more instances than one, and was strongly solicited to make a *stolen* match of it by your *father*, which he well knew would have so incensed *mine*, that, in all probability, he would not have given me a shilling. Well, he was a strange violent man ! and I vow pressed me so close, I was once or twice almost inclined to submit to his eager solicitations, but heaven be praised ! I had too much constancy of mind, and too great a regard to him, to throw a beggar into his arms. And I advise you both, never to hearken to propositions of that idle kind ; for I promise you, I have my *father's* blood in my veins, and shall certainly follow *his* opinion, and your fortunes are left to *my* discretion, and *your* obedience ; therefore if you forfeit *one*, depend upon it, I shall maintain and support the *other*.

I hope, madam, returned the eldest daughter, there is not any danger of putting either to the trial. Pray, sister, returned the other, don't be too lavish of your *promises*—for should a lover fall in the way, as unfortunate as my *papa* was, I am terribly afraid we should inherit all *his* warmth ; and mama's *suspence*, perhaps, without her *caution* and *prudence*—in trying how deep Cupid's arrows would wound, untipped with gold ; and I have an implicit belief, madam, of your indulgence, in

in forgiving an error you were upon the brink of committing *yourself*.

The resentment and indignation which were visibly rising in the old lady's countenance, at this frank railery of her daughter's were fortunately prevented from breaking forth, by the abrupt entrance of the young 'squire, who took the occasion of this family-visit to introduce himself, under that sanction, to a sight of Felicia, for whom he entertained some softer thoughts, than might readily be supposed from the roughness of his disposition. And notwithstanding his hunting-acquaintance with Sir Edward, and his secret *tendre* for the *lady*, he had never yet sum'd up resolution enough to pay any other visits, than those which had occurred from the general invitation made by the knight to his companions of the chase; and there was a strong commotion between diffidence, love, and an habitual disregard to female society, before he could prevail upon himself to enter the list; but like a redoubted *hero*, he commenced the combat with great marks of intrepidity, in his first onset--telling the ladies, they ought to think themselves much obliged to him, for he left half a dozen of the jolliest fellows in the county, to give them his company.

Meliora told him, it was an honor they had as little expectation of, as pretensions to, and she was afraid it would be a degree of vanity,

vanity, to place it to Felicia's, or her own account, since those other ladies had so superior a right to challenge the merit to themselves.—Why do you suppose, madam, replied Scent, that mothers and sisters could draw a man from a set of such hearty lads as I have just left? by the *wreckin*! that would be as wise, as if so be a man should give in exchange, the best hunters in his stable for an old mare, and a couple of young skittish fillies that run wild about the common—No, no, by the lord! I am no such bungler at a bargain—e'cod, I had my eye upon one of the prettiest tits in this county or the next, that I put more *valuation* upon, than all the studs in the nation; and if so be the purchase is to be brought about, no man in the three kingdoms shall bid fairer than Dick Scent.

Meliora smiling, said, she was sorry her inexperience, in affairs of that kind, rendered her unable to offer her advice or assistance, for even the *language* was almost unintelligible to her; but if he chose to explain himself, she would endeavor to render him any service in her power.

Why, madam, replied the eldest sister, if my brother chooses it, I'll undertake the province of being his interpreter, in explaining these allegories. No, madam, returned the 'quire, your brother does *not* choose it.—Why, what a dickins! sure I am able to be my own spokesman, at these years, or the world's

world's come to a fine pais.--And if so be, madam, (addressing himself to Felicia) it was not before company, I warrant, *you* and *I* should understand one another in a crack.--Then, sir, answered Felicia, we must both be a little more *enlightened* than we appear at present.

The old lady not being greatly pleased with her son's declaration, thought it necessary to break up the conference, lest he should come to a farther explanation; therefore desired her coach should be ordered to the door, and suddenly took her leave, as *I* do of the reader, 'till the following chapter; for this is run into a length, not quite correspondent with *mine* or the *bookseller's* interest.

CH A P. XVII.

A conjecture of Sir Edward Haunch not ill founded.

WHEN the motley family, mentioned above, were retired, Meliora, with a kind of ludicrous ceremony, congratulated Felicia upon her new conquest, adding, with a laughing irony,-- my dear, don't you think the little archer most superlatively indulgent to you, who, while you are under apprehensions one arrow will be tyrannically shivered to pieces against the stony bosoms of obdurate parents, has kindly sharpened and shot forth

forth another ? and though its workmanship is not altogether so *delicate* and *neatly* proportioned, 'tis pompously burnished with *gold*, from the feathers to the very point. If, replied Felicia, my present situation of mind could admit the interposition of pleasure, it would be in reflecting upon the strange, unparallel'd method, to say nothing of the amazing politeness, by which this boisterous clown discovered his hateful passion. O ! returned Meliora, I promise you, there are much abler heads than his worship's, which in *love* affairs, and every other, fancy *fortune* a sufficient apology for all the insolent and haughty impertinence their paltry pride suggests.

How very differently, answered Felicia, are the minds of men formed ? how various the impressions, both nature and fortune have made ? how inelegant, how coarse the behaviour of some ? and how delicate the sentiments !---what honour, generosity, and nobility of soul in others ? Come, interrupted Meliora, out with it---and how conspicuously amiable are the latter, in the lovely Charles Herald ? is not that at the bottom of this wife, philosophical distinction ? My wisdom and philosophy, replied Felicia, *bad* I those qualities, would be more properly employed, in *divesting* myself of those favorable ideas of a man, whose condition of mind and fortune is so far removed above my hopes.---- My dear, answered Meliora, *farinus*, indeed, has

has been too partially severe in her distributions between you, but then the two notable levellers, *dame Venus*, and her *equitable son*, in concert with that venerable matron *Nature*, have formed his *mind* in an exact proportion to his *own* and *your* wishes. Here Sir Edward entering the apartment, put an end to the controversy, if that may be termed so, where two people were precisely of the same opinion.

The baronet, though not remarkably endowed with the spirit of prophecy, yet now seemed somewhat enlightened by a dawning of its beams, by foretelling in part the purposes that were intended by the visit of Sir Harry Herald, but its wings did not soar high enough to afford the most distant *glimmering*, what tendency his *brother's* being of the party could possibly have beyond ceremony, and a desire of his acquaintance. He was from both motives, however, very solicitous they should have such a reception as might properly gratify his *own*, as well as the pride of his *brother-baronet*, whom, he well knew, held forms and punctillios in the highest veneration. His second sight, or to continue the more *eastern pbrafology* used above, his *prophetic fire* possessed him, Sir Harry had propositions of marriage, in view for his eldest son, with Meliora. This prompted him with an eager desire, of having not only his daughter, but his house, set forth and adorned with their most pompous decorations ;

tions; for though he had some doubts about him, whether Sir Harry's parade of pride might not have made encroachments upon his lands and tenements; yet having a reasonable portion of confidence in his own sagacity, in finding out the truth of it, and whether enough remained for a suitable settlement, he was extremely willing the alliance should be promoted, as far as discretion would admit. Therefore, addressing his daughter, with a mixture of joy and solicitude, said, he hoped she had given ample directions, that all the rooms, proper to be seen, were put into the exactest order; that the paper upon the embroidered bed and hangings, in the state-chamber, was taken off, the best carpets spread; in short, that all things should be conducted in a manner correspondent with his station and fortune. But my dear Melly, continued the old gentleman, with a kind of rapturous injunction, above all, have a particular regard to setting forth *thyself* with every advantage; dress in your last birth-day suit, that you appeared at court in; put on all the family jewels, and those since bought for your mother and yourself, for *thou* art the loadstone that draws Sir Harry Herald hither.

Meliora laughing, said, heaven forbid! why sure, sir, you don't imagine the venerable knight has any thoughts of making his address to *me*? Indeed, madam, returned Sir

Sir Edward, I am fully persuaded that is the principal purpose of to-morrow's visit. Why then, cried Meliora, my dear papa, you must not be angry if I tell you, *my* principal purpose shall be to have a violent fit of the vapours, and not stir out of my chamber the whole day.

He, smothering a smile, said, why you little disobedient baggage! have not an ancient family and title, with a large estate, sufficient charms to allure? O, yes, sir, returned Meliora, I have no kind of objection to the *antiquity* of the *title*, *estate*, or *family*, but to that of their *present possessor*. I am a little apprehensive the world would be apt to say, I had a larger share of *pride* than *prudence*, and sacrificed *youth*, *gaiety*, and a *tolerable person*, to the venerable attractions of *seventy* and a *coat of arms*.

Well! well! returned Sir Edward, to prevent *your fears*, and the world's *sage reflections*, I promise you I have no disposition to countenance such an alliance, nor do I at all imagine Sir Harry has any to propose it. But what think you of his *eldest son*, madam? I presume your objections to *him* are not altogether so powerful? Why, I think, sir, returned Meliora, I should really bid fairer for the concurrence of the general opinion, and I have a strong propensity to falling in with *that*, whenever it happens to correspond with *my own*. But pray, sir, why should you suppose

suppose marriage, of all things, 'should be Sir Harry's business?

Because, returned the knight, I suppose, of all things, 'tis a business men who have children are constantly anxious about, and more than ordinarily solicitous in making a *proper* choice, lest their children, who, they are sure, are still *more* anxious, should happen to make an *improper* one. Then addressing himself to Felicia, said, I wish with all my heart, my girl, I could point out a proper match for *thee*, and am sincerely sorry the practice of the world prevents it from considering *beauty* and *merit*, as equivalents for the want of *fortune*.

She answered, the benevolent indulgence, and even paternal care, he had so remarkably bestowed, and the tender friendship with which his daughter treated her, had made life roll on in such a settled series of tranquillity and ease, they had not afforded leisure for reflecting upon *future* prospects, but engaged her mind in grateful recollection of the *past* and *present* happiness that flowed from their beneficence; that the presumption of looking forward to any other more extensive views, was neither suited to her humble *fortune* or her *mind*.

Here the sensibility of gratitude and love, uniting in her bosom, swelled upward to her eyes, and silently bespoke the language of the *heart*.

Meliora,

Meliora, who was ever solicitous to dissipate her cares, rather by a sprightly turn of railery than a phlegmatic condolence, said, how can you, my dear, complain of the severity of fortune, who have been so lately favored with her smiles, in the auspicious victory gained over that mirror of elegance and politeness, the accomplished Mr. Scent? who, I'll be sworn, 'till *you* humanized his heart, never knew *one* impulse toward any mortal being, except his dogs and horses.

By my troth, interrupted Sir Edward, I rejoice at the reformation, for thy sake Felicia; why, my girl, he has a good two thousand pounds a year clear of all incumbrance, but his mother's jointure, which I think is four hundred. His sisters fortunes are wholly independent of the estate, and the jointure can't be long before it falls in, for the old woman will certainly prate herself into a consumption. Not so certainly, sir, replied Felicia, as reflection would throw *me* into one, were I weak enough to sacrifice my peace of mind by debasing the sacred marriage-vow, to the allurements fortune falsely flatters too many of our sex in becoming victims to.

Why, returned Sir Edward, I must confess, child, these are very just and generous sentiments, but then a coach and six---a jaunt once a year to London---rich cloaths, jewels, ---and above all, the charms of independency, are a kind of balance, methinks, not
to

to be resisted. Felicia replied, the last, indeed, *bad* charms, but not to sooth the mind from *virtue's* steady basis, and such she must esteem, even the *legal* giving up her *person* to the man who ever must remain a stranger to her *heart*. That should the rigor of her stars malevolently throw her off from that protection and support, she so unmerited received, she would descend to *servitude*, to *penury* and *want*, rather than stoop to the far *meaner poverty* of a *dissembling byproctrie* with him, to whom she vowed, before the face of heaven, ever to preserve inviolable truth.

Meliora, concluding the emotion Felicia so apparently discovered, arose as much from the delicacy of her mind, at the inadvertent mention Sir Edward had made of a state of independency, as any other motive, thought it highly necessary to put an end to the conversation, by desiring her to go with her, and assist in preparing for the reception of the visitors they were to be honored with the next day; of which the reader shall have an ample account in the following chapter.

Which cost the author some trouble, but is of little consequence to the reader.

HISTORICAL authors, like traders, sometimes precipitate themselves into promises, which retrospects to the order of time, prevent their fulfilling, and both find themselves under the necessity of breaking their *word* to maintain their *credit*. Absurd as this may appear, gentle reader, 'tis precisely the case between yourself and me. I told you in the last chapter, that this should furnish you with an account of the interview between the two baronets; I have since recollected a *prior* engagement, which you will yourself admit is of sufficient force to induce the dispensing with the *last* till the former is discharged, since it challenges precedency, by the laws of literary intercourse, as punctually as a bill *first* drawn ought to stand so in the course of *payment*. Suffer me, therefore, in reviewing the paper credit that lies before me, to answer the demands I find myself engaged in to the two young gentlemen, Alfred and Charles, who now call upon me for an arrear I ought to have balanced with them some time since.

They both received intimation of the intended visit to Sir Edward Haunch's, but were both equally strangers to the measures the

the old gentlemen had planned, for promoting the happiness of *one*, and misery of the *other*; but were not, however, without their fears, that their *uncle's* going thither must be attended with some disagreeable consequence. Nor were the pleasing ideas the elder suggested to himself, from the favorable attention his father had given to his discovering his regards to *Meliora*, sufficient to dissipate the apprehensions he was under, of the determinations that might be taken to the prejudice of his *brother*, whose interest and welfare he was determined to hold in balance with his own, and even put the *one* in hazard for the preservation of the *other*.

They conferred upon the measures necessary to be taken for obviating the mischiefs, they were but too justly apprehensive, the approaching interview of the three old gentlemen seemed pregnant with. The younger expressed the deepest concern, lest the false pride predominant in his father, or the impetuosity of his uncle, should so far prevail, if *Felicia* appeared during their stay, to influence them in uttering (heated by their mistaken passions) sentiments which might shock the tenderness and delicacy of her nature, that he thought it incumbent on him to give her notice of this intended visit, to prevent any surprize of spirits she might be affected with. Then, in the rapture of the lover, recounting all the beauties of her mind and person, cried, his fears were vain! for

for to *behold* her, and listen to the persuasive melody that dwelt upon her *tongue*, must soften petulance and pride, and thaw the frozen rigor of declining age, into a feeling pity and dissolving tenderness.

How insensibly do our *own* passions throw a veil over those of *others*? or lead us into an opinion that *theirs* must necessarily subside, and by an implicit reverence pay a blind obedience to *ours*? But in this, as in a variety of other instances, expectation was too sanguine for reason and reflection, and he dwelt too intently on the power of his *own* passions, to recollect that his father and uncle were extremely tenacious of *theirs*, and at an age not to have them readily reduced by the appearance of a beautiful object, though assisted by all those *mental* charms he supposed Felicia possessed of, and which she indeed had undeniable pretensions to. But these were not the charms that actuated upon *their* minds, which were of a kind they esteemed far more *solid, rational, and permanent*, therefore not to be given up for the transitory allurements of a fine face, or what might be fondly imagined, a profound understanding.

Alfred, who though a lover, yet not being involved in those perplexities that attended his brother's passion, was not altogether so high in his hopes, but was apprehensive the old gentlemen were not to be moved from their purpose by the features of a Venus, though

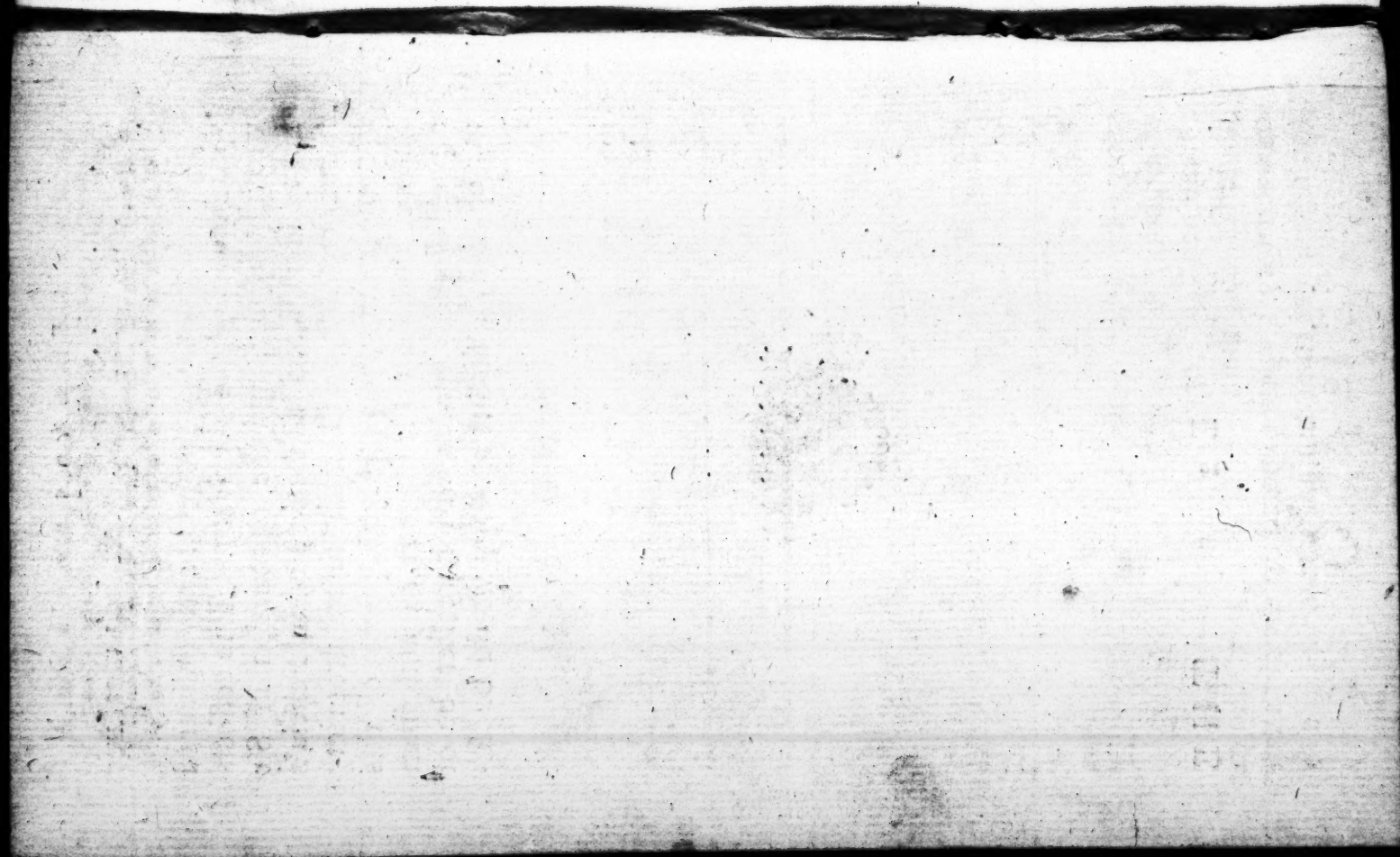
though united to the sagacity of a Minerva; therefore proposed his writing to Felicia, to prepare her for the meeting of this triumvirate, of which they did not know she was *already* advertised, and to offer it as his advice, she should avoid being seen, to prevent any disagreeable altercations which might arise from such an interview. This was readily acceded to, and put into execution; and in the letter, every sentiment that could be suggested by a lover of the most passionate mould, with the warmest professions of unalterable constancy and truth, not to be shaken by the rigorous and united injunctions of his father and uncle, or subsequent hardships both might impose; that, notwithstanding the lowering cloud which now threatened an impending storm, he entreated her, with him, to conclude, that a series of happier hours was in store, and must be attendant on a passion which had *truth* and *virtue* for its basis; acquainted her with the generous resolutions his brother had formed in his favor, should his father and uncle proceed to extremities; therefore earnestly besought her, not to suffer any of the imagined misfortunes she appeared alarmed with in her letter, relative to *his* interest, to dwell upon her mind, and disturb that repose he valued beyond life; that his brother and himself should trespass upon *her's* and Meliora's rest, early the morning after the interview of the old gentlemen,

to

to learn its result, and concert such measures with them, as *that* should render necessary.

This letter was dispatched, and delivered with all imaginable privacy. The effects wrought by *that*, and the negotiation of Sir Harry Herald and his *brother*, upon Felicia's future conduct, will with more propriety become matter for a *subsequent* part of this history, than fill up a place *here*; and from a persuasion the reader will hereafter be of my opinion, a farther apology would be superfluous.







THE
HISTORY
OF
Sir HARRY HERALD
AND
Sir EDWARD HAUNCH.

PART II.

CHAP. XIX.

Contains an apology for the writing it.

As it remained a dubious point, what would prove the issue of the ensuing congress, the deliberations of Alfred and his *brother* could by no means be determinate, but were in that kind of situation which attends *weak states*, when threatened by neighbouring princes too powerful for their opposition; and though one territory lay less exposed to danger than the other, yet their mutual interests were so

firmly cemented, the *one* could not suffer, even the slightest depredation, without very sensibly affecting the *other*.

Thus circumstanced, the two brothers planned out various schemes of providing against that misfortune, which though it seemed immediately to hover over the head of only one, yet the other would partake as fully, as if he himself sustained the shock. And though the procedure they were so firmly united in might appear, to narrow minds, a *pecuniary* injury to their family, *they* were stimulated by motives superior to such limited views, and considered the support of their *family* interest, not merely dependent upon the immediate increase of its *wealth*, but judged it more *essentially* regarded, in forming such an alliance with it, as inevitably promised a series of *happy hours*; and which, from its future events, would prove *passion alone* had not been the moving principle, but an invariable disposition to support the *real* interests, tranquillity, and repose of their ancient house, which was not to be secured, alone, by accumulating *wealth*, but by a strict adherence to the principles honor, virtue, and prudence had dictated, in the engagements they had maturely weighed, before they entered into, and such as their posterity, uninfluenced by mistaken prejudices, would regard as the basis of their happiness.

Those

Those lovers who extend their views to futurity, and are not restrained from acting correspondently with the laws of truth, tho' repugnant to those of immediate interest, will readily applaud their conduct, and determine in their favor.

Some readers, perhaps there are, who will be apt to say, there is too much time employed in defence of the passion of two lovers, who made virtue and honor a plea for precipitating themselves into an act that was not defensible, because in opposition to the power and authority of those, whose commands they should more steddily have revered. If such there are, I am inclined to think, they are a little allied in disposition to the *pride* of Sir Harry, or *petulancy* of his brother, which if reason does not evince they were erroneous in, 'tis possible, some future pages of this history may hereafter bring about ; therefore they are intreated to suspend their opinion, and not judge, as they conclude the young brothers have, too precipitately.

Their deliberations were interrupted by a message from Sir Harry to Alfred, to attend him forthwith in his apartment. The business of the old gentleman was, to know what influence the remonstrances he had been directed to make his brother, had appeared to have on his mind ; for according to that, the negotiations at Sir Edward Haunch's were to be conducted.

This interview between the father and son was equally distasteful to both ; to the latter in reporting, and to the former in receiving the resolutions Charles avowed, of abiding by the dictates love and honor inspired him with, and which no subsequent views had the power of repelling.

Alfred, as he had before done, exerted his strength of eloquence and reason in defence of his brother's passion, as far as discretion, and the mistaken principles of pride he knew his father so firmly attached to, would admit. But *now*, as *then*, it proved wholly insufficient to obliterate, in any degree, the ideas inculcated of *ancestry*, *family*, and *birth* ; which acquisitions of *chance*, he would not admit to be levelled with the far more valuable ones *nature* implants, of *truth*, *virtue*, and every other amiable quality, which are justly esteemed the ornaments of the mind, and must have been the *original source of distinction* amongst men. How much to be lamented the degeneracy of heart that considers these, but as *secondary* merits, nay, too frequently, runs into a depravity more erroneous than Sir Harry Herald's, and establishes the sum of human happiness, to be centered in the amazing wealth, without a single reflection of putting one of the social virtues into the balance. Men of this stamp pass on in life, indeed, without incurring the censure of the *laws* of their country, but can never be esteemed as meritorious members of it ; yet are hardy enough

enough to inveigh, with the utmost bitterness, against such who, formed with an ingenious benevolence of heart, a spirited liberality of soul, sacrifice their fortunes, either to the necessities of their friends or fellow-creatures, or else to some national honor or advantage; and can it, with any degree of solid argument, be asserted, the principles of the *former* class of men are equally founded with the *latter*, for the enlargement of *private* happiness, or *public* utility? The extremes of one may be admitted to have its *own peculiar* inconvenience, but the other no plea of extenuation.

Though these reflections have not an absolute and direct tendency to the characters before us, yet 'tis hoped such an analogy is evidently between them, their being made in this place will not be charged with much impropriety, or the chicane of an author, so lengthening out his chapter.

CH A P. XX.

A journey of four miles described; a treaty of marriage proposed, and how stipulated.

THE parade and pomp with which Sir Harry and his *brother* sat out upon their negotiation, more resembled that of an embassy from one state to another, than a visit of a country gentleman to his neighbour at about four miles distance. The state-coach, (never used but upon extraordinary occasions)

was cleaned and furbished up in the best manner. It, indeed, was not of the most *modern* taste, but what it wanted in that, was supplied by the magnificence of its gilding, carving and painting, which, it must be acknowledged, time, with its rude hand, had somewhat defaced; nor were its devastations confined to the *exterior* parts of this, *once superb vehicle*, but its ravage, by a curious eye, was also discernible in the crimson velvet lining, which had gone through various *emendations* and *additions*; but its use was not to be dispensed with, it had been his *Grandfather's*, and by many emblematical figures on the outside, described various heroic deeds that gentleman had been remarkable for during the civil wars.

In this venerable machine, drawn by six horses, were seated the baronet and his brother, preceded in another coach and four with his steward, and followed by a chariot, with the same number of horses, with his gentleman, and every servant of his family, *in* and *out* of livery, on horseback. With this cavalcade, together with numbers of country-people collected upon the road, they arrived at Sir Edward Haunch's, who, with more ceremony than sat perfectly easy upon him, received them at his gate, his servants in their best liveries attending, and his house, as was before-hinted, put into the most exact and ample order; in some degree, it may be presumed to gratify his *own*, as well as the pride

pride of Sir Harry. After the necessary ceremonies were past of conducting them, with all imaginable form, into the house, and they were seated in the great parlor, two or three servants attended with wine, sweetmeats, and what fruit the season of the year afforded.

Sir Harry, after this short repast was over, made his encomiums upon the house, its situation and elegance of its furniture, which gave the other an occasion he wished for, of displaying the apparatus that had been made, and convincing him the *whole* pomp of the county was not centered in *his* house *alone*. Every apartment that manifested the wealth of its owner was traversed, and on their return down stairs, they were conducted into one they had not before been in, where a very elegant, cold entertainment was set out, in a more expensive kind than Sir Edward chose, but the direction of it he had submitted to Meliora, and her spirit and taste, as they far outstripped the old gentleman's, was, at least, *equal* to any of her own sex, which were here demonstrated by a happy propriety in the blending *delicacy* and *expense*. She presided at the table, and the brilliant appearance she made received an additional lustre, from the easy negligence with which she seemed to consider the ornaments of her person, which a less elegant woman would have wore with a constrained formality and preciseness which pride enforces. But Meliora

lora regarded dress in the same view she did good sense and wit, by reflecting, when either was attended with an apparent consciousness of superior merit, that very merit the possessor attempted to establish, was in a large degree, if not totally, destroyed.

Sir Harry, after speaking largely of the conduct, as well as politeness of their entertainment, said, those families which were not happy enough to have a *lady* superintend, laboured under numberless indecorums and defects, that were banished from those which were rendered happy by such a conductress; and he had never observed so *singular* an instance of its effect, as in the order and economy that manifested the superior talents and abilities which shone so conspicuously in the fair agent, who had regulated their reception of that day, and which brought back to his memory, not only the *superb*, but *refined* taste of the ladies celebrated in his youth, equally for the dignity of their minds, as beauty of their persons; that he was by no means surprised, to have received a report, they were *both* so amiably united there, that *princes* might rejoice in participating the pleasures they conferred.

Meliora told him, she made no doubt the ladies of the time, he mentioned, largely *served* the encomiums he had bestowed, however *deficient* any of those of the present might prove---but he had given incontestible proofs of the high breeding and perfect elegance of
the

the *gentlemen* of those days, and which time had not been able to dispossess of its original delicacy, and which would do honour to the *youth* of *this* age to form precedents from.

A compliment thus judiciously calculated, and which spoke to the *soul* of the man to whom it was paid, could not fail of the influence purposed by the speaker, and from those efforts of fire that faintly made their way to the old gentleman's eyes, had time been twenty years backward in their decrease, the railery of Meliora to her father, in a former chapter, might have become a matter of more *serious reflection*; however, it served her as a subject of future amusement with her father, lover, and friend.

When she had staid some short time after the duties of the table were discharged, she retired; when Mr. Herald, with an impatience natural to him, asked Sir Harry, if he had not forgot the occasion that brought them thither? who with a *solemnity*, as natural to *him*, replied, he seldom *forgot*, even *minute* things, that were incumbent on him to recollect; but in matters of *importance*, as he never wanted a remembrancer, he also never spoke to them, or entered upon their discussion, till occasion and propriety took place of precipitation and indecorum; but since those were superseded, he should now, in its due forms, open to Sir Edward, the purpose which had proved the instrument of that day's pleasure; and desiring no interruption might arise from the

the intrusion of servants, delivered himself in the following words.

The knowledge, Sir Edward, you must have acquired, by your own judicious observation from a long series of years, must indubitably have convinced you, how highly incumbent it is upon those parents, who are of *rank* and *family*, to be greatly vigilant and circumspect in the disposition of their children in that important article of marriage; and I will venture to pronounce, that amongst us of *birth* and *fortune*, the greatest evils have arose, from *contaminating* the pure stream of un sullied blood, which has flowed for ages through an illustrious race, by mingling in a *Plebeian* channel. It is an injury, time, in its longest duration, is incapable of correcting. The stains are permanent, and never to be effaced by the longest succession of generations. 'Tis to be greatly lamented our laws have not provided sufficient security against alliances, so inevitably productive of the dishonour and well-being of a nation, which can never attract either the esteem or reverence of its neighbouring *princes*, whilst a degeneracy appears amongst its *nobility* and *gentry*, in contracting alliances with the *obscure* and *vulgar*. It debases the very source of honour, and if our ancestors are admitted from their seats above, to review our actions here, such prostitution of that great preeminence we derive from them must necessarily

riely disturb their repose, and cover them with confusion.

Sir Edward said, he had always understood, and believed, that the serenity of the inhabitants of those seats above was not to be disturbed, even by transactions of *moment* that occurred upon *earth*, therefore could not possibly conceive it was to be interrupted by any pursuits persons made relative to *Birth* and *family*, since, in nature, mankind could be considered only as one large extended family.----Ay, ay, interrupted Mr. Herald, doubtless these are points heaven has left to our own dispositions and prudence, and the portion it has allotted us, if properly executed, is sufficient to direct us; and I must dissent from my brother, in supposing our most necessary cares are to be employed about *family* and *descent*---a good *fortune*, in my opinion, mends the blood of the best---this I am sure of, it creates a more cheerful circulation; and *princes*, in poverty, are the most melancholy objects upon earth. *His* attention is to *family*, *mine*, I acknowledge, is to *fortune*, and on that subject, as far as relates to *me*, Sir, you are troubled with this visit. You have, it seems, taken under your protection and care, an orphan young woman, with whom a nephew of mine, I have adopted as my heir, is ridiculously fallen in love with---I say *ridiculously*, because I am well informed she is a *beggar*, and wholly dependent upon your *humanity*. Now, sir, as

as the estate I purpose leaving him (if he continues to deserve it) is considerable, I expect he shall marry some woman with a fortune in proportion, otherwise I shall wholly alter my resolutions, and give every shilling to his elder brother ; this, sir, I am persuaded, you will think a most unhappy circumstance for *both*, and I profess to you, I am heartily concerned for the poor girl, should she be mad enough to marry a young fellow without a penny, which I am peremptorily determined shall be his fate ; and in this his father and myself are unanimous. But *be* has something to propose, sir, of a more pleasing kind, though in a degree connected with what *I* have mentioned, and more immediately relates to *him* to inform you of.

Sir Harry, addressing himself to his brother-baronet, said, Your family, Sir Edward, seems, by mine, to be pointed out as the *seat of love*, though not so happily in the *younger* branch as in the *elder*, where the choice is countenanced by a due proportion of the gifts of fortune, and such a superiority of merit in the lovely object, as might induce even dispensing with considerations of a *precise equality in blood*. But the virtues, Sir Edward, of your fair daughter, apparently claim their origin from the purest fountains of *antiquity*, and I think it a duty highly incumbent upon you, to trace back your *lineage* to our *earliest* accounts, in which, I rest assured, you will not fail of finding, that

that so bright an ornament of a family cannot but derive its excellencies from an *illustrious spring*. And I am the more fully possessed of this opinion, from that sympathy of souls in our offspring, that cannot take its being but from a parity of *coeval ancestry*.

Sir Edward, with a shrug that denoted but slender approbation of such elevated strains, said, these are concerns, I really have not much busied my mind about, nor thought it worth while to consider who were the instruments of my girl's good qualities, beyond her mother, myself, and nature. But, sir, if I rightly understand you, the sum of what you have said amounts to this, that your eldest son has looked upon my daughter as a woman he should choose to make a wife of, and that you are not at all averse to the match, though she should not happen to stretch out so long a line of *antiquity*. But, give me leave to tell you Sir Harry, that at my death, she shall number a parcel of *acres* that will put many *pedigrees* in this kingdom out of countenance, and with a founder title than most of them can prove to their *boasted descent*.---

Ay, ay, interrupted Mr. Herald, the parchments that convey a round number of *acres*, are of infinite more worth than those which contain the longest *genealogy* in *Europe*. Then addressing himself to Sir Harry, said, pray, brother, let us come to points, and not dwell thus long upon idle punctilios.

Your

Your reproof, brother, replied Sir Harry, is wholly superfluous---I have, you might observe, declined, as you term them, every idle punctilio, and shall, in farther conformity to your *sage* admonition, if Sir Edward approves (and I can scarce suggest the reverse) of an alliance with *my* family; when proper settlements, and other necessary Preliminaries are adjusted. I shall now mention to him the previous condition to such a treaty, which, sir, is relative to the precipitate passion my *younger* son has engaged himself in, for the unfortunate stranger, who now receives a sanction under your roof---Felicia, if I mistake not, is her name---that the earliest and most prudent steps should be taken for the prevention of a commerce so injurious and unequal, I believe, Sir Edward, you will readily acquiesce is manifestly incumbent on me, both as a parent, and man of honor, who should be ever watchful for the dignity of his *house*, which by such disparity of union would be irretrievably impaired; therefore hope, sir, you will not judge the demand of her dismissal as an article of too great rigor for acceding to, previous to any future negotiation.

Sir Edward, after a short pause of recollection, said, I esteem, sir, the proposition you have made of an alliance with my family as a peculiar mark of honor, but regard it more, from a very high opinion I hold of your son's merit, as a worthy honest man, and

and of a most unblemished character, and should be greatly concerned that any person who received the protection of *my* family should prove the means of disturbing the repose of *yours*; and especially, that from thence, any impediment should arise to prevent the entering upon a treaty of marriage, I readily acknowledge, I should be proud to see consummated. And I dare believe, Sir Harry, you'll not suppose me less sincere in my profession, if, in an affair, where the memory of a dead friend, tenderness to his child, and the ties of common humanity interfere, I think some time necessary for giving a determined answer.

This was acceded to, and the time stipulated for Sir Edward's resolution, which put an end to the present interview, and is necessary it should do the same to this chapter.

C H A P. XXI.

Not so entertaining as some which are to follow.

I Believe it may be very justly concluded, the majority of readers, into whose hands productions of this kind fall, are formed by nature, with feeling and sensibility; therefore it will with equal propriety be concluded, whoever has read thus far, has some tender apprehensions for the impending fate of Felicia, whose situation in the family of Sir

Sir Edward Haunch, does not appear established upon so firm a basis as it did some chapters since; for notwithstanding, in the last, that gentleman made some professions that carried marks of candor and regard, yet, I am persuaded, readers of the class just now mentioned, will perceive his humanity toward Felicia bending to his nearer ties, and closer affections toward his *daughter*. And indeed, though their *pity* be extended to *her*, their *blame* I think will not fall very heavy upon *him*, since the *general* calls of *compassion* can never dissipate those of *blood*, and the feeling of a *father*: or should the severity of any of our *female* readers pronounce against him, yet when they shall know the fluctuating state of his mind, the inquietude he suffered, and the favorable resolutions he formed, they will judge more candidly, and, perhaps, suffer him to stand wholly excused.

Immediately after the departure of Sir Harry Herald, and his brother, he retired to his apartment, sent for his daughter, and communicated to her the whole of the propositions he had received, which when she had heard, love and friendship, *alternately*, filled her breast, each was *repelled*, and each *presided*, every possible means was canvassed by which they might coincide---transport and dejection of spirits certainly, at one time, had never so full possession of the human heart, their struggles were too violent to find their passage in *words*, till *tears* had unladed some part

part of the anguish she sustained, which having made their way, and followed by a heart-felt sigh, she said, hard, hard injunction of my fate ! that in one breath proclaims my *bliss* and *bane* ! Shall the condition of *my happiness* be made the seal of another's *misery* ? and of the woman too I value and esteem, with a regard unfeigned as just ? Shall *she* be ruined in her love ? be made an outcast too ? must it be thus ? or must my *own* perpetual peace be lost ? are these the goods of birth and fortune ? how cruel the imagined benefit ! nor will the misery be mine alone, but Alfred's generous soul must be oppressed with equal pangs, must share in every anxious hour of mine.

The old gentleman, a good deal affected with the first part of Meliora's exclamatory grief, for the unhappy situation of her friend, was not less *surprised* at the declaration made in favour of *Alfred*, having no idea of any previous intercourse. However, as it fell in with the proposition he had then made known to her, and her mind was apparently under the severest inquietude, he thought it improper to exert any parental authority of chiding, for a breach of duty, in commencing such an engagement unknown to *him*, and was indeed a circumstance he was rather *pleased* than *disgusted* with ; therefore joining with her, in condolence of Felicia's fate, told her, he much applauded her sentiments of friend-

friendship, and sincerely sympathised in her concern, yet notwithstanding, there was a true *old*, though *vulgar* saying, that charity begins at home, and which ought to induce *him* to reflect on the welfare of his child, and *her* upon her own, and her lover's acknowledged passion, and whether a resignation of *that*, or the temporary loss of her *friend*, might be best dispensed with, for though Felicia should be *removed* from the protection she received in his house, he, by no means, meant to *withdraw* it, in a place less liable to encourage that ill-concerted correspondence subsisting between her and Sir Harry Herald's son, which, he told her, he was convinced she must disapprove, since it must unavoidably be attended with ruin to both, that time and separation were approved antedotes to expel *love*, and were rarely observed to fail, and when that was accomplished, their friendly intimacies might be renewed; in the mean time, he would make her such an allowance, as should support her in the same manner she now lived, provided she removed herself to London, or elsewhere, at such distance, and privacy from her lover, as should prevent any future communication, and with these resolutions desired his daughter would make her acquainted. From which, in the most pressing terms, she requested to be excused, but Sir Edward strenuously insisted upon the execution of it, properly enough urging, that should

should she decline it, and oblige *him* to the performance, Felicia might imagine it an artifice, to cover with dissimbled tenderness, resolutions *she* had secretly influenced him to take.

Though this had some appearance of *plausibility* to Meliora, it had none of *reason*, well knowing Felicia had too generous and open a mind to harbour suspicions, even of those with whom she had not contracted friendly intimacies, but more especially so, of one who in every instance had given such repeated proofs of an unalterable and disinterested regard. However, upon recollection, considering that her father might not have the most eligible and delicate manner in delivering his sentiments upon so tender a subject, she consented to the task; justly concluding also, that Felicia's reception of it would be attended with less emotion, from *her* than Sir Edward, who well pleased with the resolution she had taken, left her to meditate the manner in which she should open herself upon so severe and melancholy an occasion.

She, (like a skilful and humane surgeon, under the necessity of making known to his unalarmed *patient* some dangerous operation which *must* be sustained) revolved in her mind every method that she imagined might prove most capable of fortifying her resolution, and rendering her as little shocked as the nature of the thing would possibly admit.

She

She knew, indeed, Felicia had a cool, philosophical turn, but she also knew she was in *love*. She recollected the letter wrote to her lover, in which every argument was pressed to disengage him from a passion attended with insuperable difficulties, but she recollected too, that every sentiment of it, which urged the dissolution of *his* love, arose from the most delicate and refined, yet insoluble spring of *her's*; that this delicacy of thinking might even carry her so far, almost, to rejoice at an occasion of proving the motives of her letter superior to any little female arts, or mean dissimulation. These were efforts she was convinced Felicia's honor and unswerving integrity would make, in supporting her removal from Sir Edward's house; but Meliora was too intimately knowing in the recesses of a heart in love, that when the sacrifice offered to honor and integrity had been made, *those* would inevitably subside, and the latent passion of her heart exert its dominion with an unbounded and destructive sway. These reflections were blended with others of a different kind, the inquietude she knew their separation would occasion, after having lived a series of time in the strictest alliance of friendship and mutual regard, and the pangs that must necessarily swell her heart, at the indignity of being made an exile from a family where, till then, she had been considered almost as one of its natural branches.

After

After revolving these complicated circumstances, but still undetermined on the manner of pursuing her purpose, she hastened to Felicia's apartment ; who she knew impatiently expected her return, to be acquainted with the subject of the conference of the three old gentlemen, of which Meliora justly supposed she would conclude Sir Edward had informed her.

CH A P. XXII.

A critical and tender conversation between the two ladies.

WHEN Meliora returned to Felicia's chamber, she found her reading, to which she was so closely attentive, that the other entered the room unobserved, and agreeably surprized to find her thoughts so sedately settled, which impatient expectation very rarely admits ; but which *she* had prudentially disengaged herself from, by applying to a moral lesson of instruction.

After a short space, Meliora, in a lower and less spirited voice than was habitual to her, said, what, my dear Felicia, are you so deeply attentive to ? But you are one of those few readers, who never consider books merely as the toys of amusement, but instruments of improving the *mind*, by embracing or avoiding the precepts and examples they contain.

F The

The other replied, whatever powers nature had bestowed upon her, in contemplating what she read, Meliora's partial friendship induced her to consider 'them in much too advantageous a light---they had, indeed, been just then employed, in establishing her in an opinion the weakness of her sex has sometimes suffered her to waver in---which was, that all the promised joys love might flatter woman into, with a man of superior rank and fortune to herself, were at best but transient, ever attended with consequences difficult and dangerous, sometimes with fatal ruin and destruction, as in the instance now before me of poor Monimia, in Otway's play of the Unhappy Marriage.

This was an occasion too apt for Meliora not to make use of, as prefatory to the melancholy tale, though not of so deep a cast she herself had to relate---and sighing, said, she had often reflected on the fate of Monimia as *immorally severe*; and thought it a very violent breach of the laws, both of *dramatic* and *rational* justice, that the innocent and guilty should be alike involved in the same punishment; for surely, it can never be imputed to her as a *crime*, that she loved Castalio; though as you, I think, too rigidly have judged, his birth and fortune were above her.

Pardon me, my dear, replied Felicia, I have not charged it on her as a *crime*, but an *indiscretion*; which if prudently avoided in its infancy,

infancy, she had escaped her *own*, and prevented the destructive ruin of the man she loved.

Can you then, returned Meliora, imagine it so practicable a task, to bend the laws of *love* to those of *prudence*? Suppose, for an instance, the father of Castalio had early made discovery of his son's passion for Monimia, and to disunite their hearts, had cruelly enjoined her leaving his family; can you suppose it in the reach of female resolution to abide the sentence with an equal mind? to endure the separation from a family and female friend, such as Serina seems to have been, because *discretion* dictates? Are minds united by the ties of social love, and sympathizing nature, to break their bands, when partial *fortune* bids? and grant, that *these* by cool reflection were suppressed---what *Stoicism*, think you, could dissipate the stronger bands which *love* cements, and form the heart, with *calm indifference*, to ruminate on its lost felicity?---Could *you*, my dearest girl, so circumstanced as poor Monimia might have been, follow those rules your prudence has prescribed for *her*?

Felicia replied, whatever, my dear Meliora, I might prescribe for Monimia to have followed, I perceive your tender friendship has kindly meditated these preparatory lenitives, to soften *me* into submission, to the impending trial of the practice of my boasted speculation. Tell me, my dear, be not

fearful, indeed I can support the shock---- I know I can---ills we have deliberated on are lessened in their near approach, and more supportable than we at first suggested. But need I *ask* my fate? those rising tears pronounce it---if you would wish me capable to bear it as I ought, *you* must appear less sensibly affected with its weight, or I shall sink with softness from such endearing Sympathy.

Here both remained for some time silent--- Felicia observing Meliora's tears flow still faster, renewed her entreaties for the suppressing them, but in a manner too pathetic to obtain what she asked, adding fresh force to that grief she hoped to assuage; and finding herself falling into the same softness, said, my dear, let me intreat we may change this affecting subject, which I fear our spirits are equally incapable of sustaining; and since, from the kind concern which so deeply affects you, 'tis evident the result of the conference with Sir Harry Herald, his brother, and Sir Edward, is essentially relative to *me*, I will, *myself*, take an occasion to receive it from your father, but let it now subside. Tell me, my dear, was the entertainment served up with that order and politeness you had directed it? I gave the little assistance I was capable, in adjusting it in the manner you had so elegantly laid down, and was, indeed, digested into so regular a method, it could not easily miscarry.

Whatever

Whatever merit, returned Meliora, was in the *whole* of it, I am sure my dear Felicia is at least entitled to an equal proportion, and ought to have received her part of those enormities Sir Harry so lavishly bestowed upon it, and could I have prevailed upon your too strict reserve, it *had* been so. Could you have been influenced to have dressed, and let the tyrants see you, their hearts had then perhaps---Here the bell ringing for supper, very seasonably prevented her from renewing a conversation too affecting for either.

C H A P. XXIII.

With which the reader, if in love, may possibly be affected.

DURING supper, Sir Edward observing great discomposure, both in the countenances and conduct of his *daughter* and Felicia, concluded the former had obeyed his directions, and fully acquainted the latter with the determination he had come to ; in consequence of which, when the servants were withdrawn, he relieved Felicia from a task, which would have proved greatly irksome to her, by opening it himself in the following manner.

It gave me much concern, good Felicia, to be obliged to charge my daughter, with that ungrateful commission, which I am convinced,

vinced, her having acquainted you with, has occasioned the melancholy that hangs upon you both ; it was a condition Sir Harry insisted on, which when I considered, as a father *myself*, I could not refuse ; since the welfare of *one of his sons*, was so nearly concerned, and that of *my own daughter's marriage* with the *other*, proposed in consideration of it.--- And, child, if you are maintained in the same manner you *now* live, which I will punctually take care shall be done, I see no great reason thou hast to repine, since I make no doubt, as thou art a good slightly young woman, fortune will throw some other man in thy way, may make thee much happier than Charles Herald would have done ; for the fantastical pride of his *father*, and whimsical oddity of his *uncle*, had they been brought hereafter to have been reconciled---yet the reflections on the obscurity of birth on *one* side, and having no fortune on the *other*, 'tis odds, would have made thee a miserable woman. I suppose the parting of you and my daughter, as you have lived together from girls, will prove very disagreeable to you both ; but in a little time, if *you* don't find another *husband*, I'll warrant the *young fellow* will another *wife*---and then, girls, you may gossip together again, as happily as ever.

This speech of Sir Edward's, not being delivered with the greatest tenderness, was a circumstance that favored Felicia in collecting her spirits, which if delivered with more delicacy

delicacy and softness, might, most probably, have so much sunk and overwhelmed them, she would only have been able to have answered him with tears; but addressing herself to him, with great calmness, said, let me first, render you my unfeigned acknowledgements of gratitude, for that paternal care and indulgence with which you have so many years left me unconscious of the early loss of *natural* parents, whose ties of *blood* could not have bound them faster in my tenderest regards than your *humanity* has done. Next, sir, receive my humble thanks, for your benevolent intention of yet continuing the same extensive goodness, though removed from the protection of your roof, under which, while you became a *second father*, I have *here* (turning to Meliora) received the tenderest proofs of an unalterable *friend* and most indulgent *sister*, from the separation of whom, if there be a thought can make it in the least supportable, it is, that *her future happiness* will prove the pleasing consequence of *my present anxiety*.

The happiness, replied Meliora, that entails the misery of another, will find, I fear, its expectation blasted, by still recurring to the injurious means which wrought the promised purchase; nor can *hope* even soothe the breast, that has proved the instrument, if *innocently*, of planting dark despair, though in a *stranger's* breast---what then shall prove its lot, where *friendship's* charms were

insufficient to repel the blow? such happiness can ne'er be permanent, because unjustly founded, and I will never---Here Sir Edward turning his eyes toward his daughter, with some marks of resentment, Felicia thought it prudent to interrupt her going on, and addressing her in the most persuasive manner, said, my dear *sister*---permit me now to call you by that tender name---these feeling softnesses no *other* can be equal to---why will you impute to that regular *equality*, which justice warrants, in a due support of birth and fortune, any breach of the most firm and long contracted friendship? believe me, were I to obstruct the balance being kept, in this so equitable cause, I should for ever feel the stings of self-reproach. It were to invert the rules of *right* and *wrong*---you would, I know, despise me, could you think me capable of harbouring such a thought.

My honest wench, interrupted Sir Edward, I applaud thy resolution and prudence, and could wish, with all my heart, they were employed upon some occasion that would prove more advantageous to thee---however, I promise thee, they shall not go wholly unrewarded---and who knows, my girl; if we settle all things to my liking for my daughter's match, when that's well over, but we may persuade the old fellows into better temper? and I assure thee, thou shalt not want *my* good word and assistance in it; but at present these musty *cuffs* must be humored.

In

In the morning, child, I'll talk more particularly to thee, and let thee know how, and in what manner I would have thee disposed of thyself---so I wish you both a good night, and get you to bed---and I desire, my little Melly, I may hear no more of your strange *romantic* notions, but, d'ye mind me, learn discretion of your friend here.

The old gentleman being gone, Meliora, embracing Felicia, said, thou miracle of fortitude, and unequalled greatness of mind! the stories told of Greek and Roman women, will all be lightly held, when *thine* is heard; some of them, 'tis said, have given up *life* for husbands, lovers, and their country, but the *supporting* life, and yet remain possessed of the most tender passion for a man who merits all esteem, and fondly pays that passion back, *this*, to be done with thy unshaken firmness, is *heroism*, surpassing far the *loss of life*---that's a refuge *fear* suggests, but thine is constancy of mind, superior even to *manly* courage.

Heaven grant, returned Felicia, I deserve the smallest portion of this lavish praise! my resolution sickens into softness at the thought of morning---how shall I support the *meeting* of to-morrow? how the *parting*? how will the generous, tender soul of Charles be struck, when he is informed of the too just determination, from this day's meeting of his father, uncle, and Sir *Edward*? for *him*, more than *myself*, I feel---*He* has a heart so gently calm, it

it will not bear the ruffle of so rude a storm ! where are now the precepts I so largely dictate in my letter ? where are *those* I loudly boasted a few minutes since ? what praise is *now* my due ? Alas ! my Meliora, I have deceived myself and you--- I am not what I thought---my heart is *woman* all.

Meliora now should have taken the tide of consolation and advice ; but if her spirits were before agitated with the *warmth* of her friendship, they were now sunk into depression with its *tenderness* ; which Felicia perceiving, resumed hers in the best manner she was able, saying, thank heaven ! I feel returning reason strengthen me anew ! and aid me in the purpose *that* directs. Let us retire, my dear, Alfred and Charles, you know, are to be early here, and not to be prepared to meet them, might be attended with some unlucky circumstance or other, which 'twill be prudent to prevent, by getting what rest we can, to be ready for their reception--- Meliora joined in her opinion, and they retired to their separate apartments.

In the dispositions of these two ladies may be marked, the various traces of the passions, love, friendship and honor, were indeed conspicuously evident in both ; but though *one* was, by nature, of the most *sprightly*, *vivacious* turn of mind, when unruffled and composed, and the *other* of a more *phlegmatic*, *melancholy* cast ; yet when there befel any violent interposition to disturb the three reigning

reigning principles above, the vivacity of the *former* was quite unequal to the weight, and the want of spirits in the *latter* was supported by a calm determination, which supported her against the malevolence of her fortune, and the soft intrusions love made in her bosom; and it might have been reasonably enough imagined, that from the *general* bent of their dispositions, just the *reverse* should have happened.

C H A P. XXIV.

Containing a circumstance little expected.

THE brothers, Alfred and Charles, impatient to learn the determination the triumvirate had made, mounted their horses, the following morning, early enough to be unnoticed by any of their *own* family (except the servant who was directed to attend the stables) or any of *that* they visited; but Meliora, whose countenance and conduct were too *expressively* silent, not to possess them with ideas, even more anxious than their worst conceptions had formed, but of a kind far distant and remote from the *immediate* cause, continuing still unable to speak, but breaking into tears, she gave the following letter into Alfred's hand.

“ Believe

“BELIEVE me, my dearest Meliora, I am less alarmed with the dangers I am on the brink of encountering, than at the affecting sensibility I know you will be touch’d with, for my thus precipitately throwing myself upon them--but let your tender friendship reflect on the rigorous alternative. Was it in resolution, or prudence, to support the meeting of this morning? I found myself wholly unequal to the task, and to decline it was my only refuge---its consequences must have been *mutually fatal*---for, alas! if in *absence* reason sickened into softness---in *meeting*, all its powers, I fear, had vanished utterly; and can I think *his fortitude* would have received addition from *my weakness*? Impossible! it would have thrown him on the rash resolve, perhaps, of pressing our immediate marriage---O my Meliora! I triumph in the conquest friendship gains of love, in my rejecting such a trial, which might have proved the bane of all my plighted truth to *thee*, my gratitude, and every tie which heaven exacts from those, who stand like me, examples of its indulgent care, dispensed by such benevolent, such tender breasts, as still are open to the wretched, and has been dealt in such abundance under this hospitable roof. But, these considerations all apart, should I deliberate a moment, where Meliora’s happiness had the remotest glimpse of being made the forfeit

forfeit of my failing resolution it would embitter every promised joy that expectation flattered with.

Occasion will, I hope, hereafter permit your knowing how this unhappy exile is disposed of---but till I hear your felicity, with that of Alfred's, is complete, and his brother's merit rewarded, as it ought, with a second Meliora, if such there be, I must remain (but in *reflection* only) a stranger to the woman who, of all her sex, so justly claims my heart. And let me intreat you to give me one farther proof of the tender title by which you hold it, in conjuring Mr. Herald not to make any attempt toward following, or discovering me, since it must incur the resentment of his father and uncle, and from the precaution I have taken be rendered utterly fruitless.

Receive, *my dear Meliora*, and present them from me to your worthy father, all the acknowledgments a grateful heart suggests, and all which such humane beneficence demands; but there is something *nearer, tenderer*, calls upon me, when I would pay my thanks to *you*, who took me to your heart, and made *my* happiness or misery *yours*, and conscious of the pain this separation gives it, I will not injure its constancy and truth so much to say, *forget me*---but for your own dear sake---for mine, remember me, as you ever loved me, with *ease*, with *gentleness*, and joy---with *joy*, that *I* am happy, by reflecting

Meliora

Meliora is so, in not considering too attentively *my* misfortunes.---Farewel---be as blest as Alfred can make you, and were there greater happiness, it would not exceed the wishes of

FELICIA.

In reading this letter, Alfred was frequently interrupted, by bursts of grief and exclamation from his brother, as well as his own sympathizing feeling, when he ended it. Meliora, as well as her spirits would support, gave them this account.----That having expected Felicia, some time, in her *own* apartment, she went to *her's*, supposing nature, weighed down and quite overcome, had kindly lengthened rest, to intercept that torrent of her grief, which the resolves of the preceding day was driving fast upon her.----Here she, faltering, stopped, unable to proceed, but resuming her resolution, in some little time, said---when calling gently on her name---half unwilling to disturb that soft repose, I too well knew her *waking* thoughts would break, on the repeating, through necessity, the call---and still approaching nearer to her bed---what was my astonishment---not at her *silence*, but her *absence*? yet my surprize, in some degree, was lessened, by recollecting the different ways that led to our apartments, by which, I fondly hoped, we might have missed each other, in
our

our mutual intentions of meeting---I turned back to mine, and disappointed there, hastily traversed all the house, and in my confusion entered my *father's* chamber, but fortunately undiscovered, yet equally deceived in every other---then again, returning to Felicia's, upon her toilet I perceived this letter, which fatally confirmed my doubts and fears.----What means can be pursued for her recovery! and the prevention of the mischiefs, must attend a resolution thus precipitate, though formed from every virtue, might defend her against the roughest insults of impending danger?

Charles, who for some time had sunk into a silent astonishment, suddenly rousing from that lethargy, said, every means shall instantly be used, which expedition, pressed by ardent love, can make; every different road and village shall be traced---I have too long delayed the search, and I deserve to lose her.

Meliora interrupting him, said, these resolutions, though I cannot blame, and wish successfully pursued, yet as they stand in opposition to what she has so fervently enjoined, both on yourself and me, and as I fear, what she declares, you'll find too prudently supported, that all pursuit will prove a fruitless labor---I should advise submitting it to time, which may produce events her *caution* cannot guard against.

Injunctions,

Injunctions, madam, returned Charles, founded on mistaken principles of honor, can plead no claim to our assent, but justly call upon our prudence to repel; and longer to neglect the execution, were an offence to love and reason, not to be forgiven---and saying this, directly left the room,

Meliora, turning to Alfred, said, what's to be done? how shall I advise? the suffering this pursuit, or your endeavouring to prevent it? The latter, madam, returned Alfred, I am fully persuaded would prove a needless trial, and what would more probably produce *resentment*, than concurrence---'twould be an insult to his love he could not pardon, to suppose it tamely could submit, with indolence and ease, not to attempt recovering her---nay, 'twere an insult to my *own*---for were I circumstanced like *him*, I should despise myself, could I be prevailed on not to act as *he* is resolved to do.

What, replied Meliora, though against the strictest and most solemn supplication of her you loved? The lover, answered Alfred, who does not distinguish when to *obey*, and when *decline* injunctions, the observance of which would prove dangerous to his mistress, has but a slender title to the name---Nay, said Meliora, to be just, and openly avow my sentiments, I think an *implicit* obedience, when enjoined from a too delicate and refined sense of thinking, may justly be rejected, where

where love and honor, in the man, are the source of it, as is so evidently the case of Mr. Herald---but then the consequence! alas! I fear for *her*, for *him*, *myself*, and *you*, for all are fatally involved!

She then related to him the resolutions of the preceding day, which when he had heard, with the blended *Transport* and *concern* the occasion called for, said, why has fate thus complicated with its supremest *bliss*, the severe alloy which friendship feels for those whom hard necessity devotes the *victims*, through whom the promised joy must be obtained!--Is there no medium, no middle course to steer?

Meliora interrupting, said, there *is*---a fixed resolve (in order to preserve those joys still pure and unembittered) not to partake them, till heaven's smiles shall bring about some happier crisis, in the fortune of our *friends*.

If, replied Alfred, the deferring *our* happiness were sure to be attended with the promoting that of our *friends*, I should consent, even to that *severest* trial---but pardon me, Meliora, if I dissent in my opinion, as to any utility which can possibly arise from deferring the consummation of our happy union, beyond the period *your* father and my *own* shall hereafter determine on; and did not the impatient wishes of my heart prompt its earliest prosecution---She, interrupting, with a complacency that half bespoke assent, said,

said, which of our opinions weighs the heaviest in the scale of reason, 'tis not, I think, essential *now* should be determined, since there are matters more immediately demand attention. What plausible pretences can you form at home, to cover the real motives of your brother's absence? which I fear will prove no easy task, when the manner of poor Felicia's flight is known, and *that*, I think impossible should long be held a secret.

That indeed, replied Alfred, is a circumstance utterly escaped me, and I fear will be productive of such consequences as may, perhaps, affect our love, why was I so absurdly weak to suffer his departure? I'll follow, and prevent, if possible, this incensurate pursuit. *That*, answered Meliora, and the rising of my father and the family, doubly make it necessary we should part immediately. The necessity, replied Alfred, I indeed feel, but feel more sensibly, the strong *inquietude* such separation brings, the tender tumults that alarm my breast, in leaving Meliora, plead against *necessity*, and fain would urge their *more* prevailing claim. She told him, whatever *they* might urge, in either breast, discretion dictated obedience to *her* law, which now no longer ought to be withheld, whatever rigor might attend its execution---and saying this, left the room, but in a manner, which confessed the separation not less sensibly affecting to her than him.

It

It will now be necessary to give the reader some account of the progress made by Felicia, in preparing for her sudden departure, and the consequences attending it. But as that will, with more propriety, be the matter of the following chapter, to that we refer.

C H A P. XXV.

Which may not be unamusing to some readers.

FELICIA, agitated with the various passions of love, friendship, grief, and terror, which the apprehensions of the resolution she had formed filled her with, from its dreaded consequences, was almost driven from its execution ; but the constancy of mind (her most permanent passion) with which she was so amply endowed, dissipated every rising fear, and fixed her in her intended purpose.

Therefore, when she was retired from Meliora to her own apartment, after she had determined upon her immediate departure, she sat down, and wrote the letter to Meliora which has been seen in the preceding chapter ; then, with what money she was mistress of, a change or two of linen, and one of a gown, with some few valuable trinkets, about break of day, took a sighing leave of the habitation

habitation endeared to her by every act *benevolence* suggested, and the most tender *friendship* had long cemented. She made her way toward Shrewsbury, without knowing in what track she was, till day-light discovered to her, at a distance, some of the towers of its churches. It then occurred to her, she might procure from thence, by the boats that are frequently going, not only an easy passage to Gloucester, but one least liable to discovery, and from thence, in the coach, to London, whither she was determined to go, as the place she could best secrete herself in, and where her little fortune lay.

Various reflections occurred to her, of a proper place for an asylum at Shrewsbury, during the interval that might happen to oblige her stay there, till one of the appointed days upon which the boats set out, and of which she was wholly unacquainted. Her fortune in this instance, however, seemed to give a happy earnest to her wishes, for she was under the necessity of staying only one night, but of that she could receive no notice, previous to the choice she was to make, of some place of privacy. The mercer, milliner, and mantua-maker, who served the family, offered to her *memory*, but not her *judgment*; properly enough concluding, if any means should be used to discover her, and any knowledge got at, of her having bent her course toward Shrewsbury, those would be

be the first places enquiry would be made at, she therefore determined to stop at some small publick-house a little short of the town, and as near the water-side as possible, where she might be least liable to be seen going to the boat. Into such a one she went, severely fatigued with the length of her journey, not being such as she was accustomed to take on foot, together with the hurry of spirits she was necessarily in, not having been in bed, or received the least rest the preceding night. Though these were supported, in a tolerable degree, by her strength of *mind*, they were too rude and harsh for the delicacy of her *person* and *constitution*, thole almost sinking under the pressure; for after being a few minutes in the house, it was with the utmost difficulty she was prevented from fainting, and the good-natured woman, who was mistress of it, was so alarmed and frightened, she was greatly sollicitous to have a physician or surgeon sent for, which Felicia, with those few spirits that remained, as strenuously opposed as they would admit, considering *that* as a too hazardous trial to make experiment of, and liable almost to a certainty of being made known. These apprehensions stimulating the blood, gave it a more immediate and quick circulation, which proved as essential, in preventing any farther consequence, as probably whatever measures might, by such assistance, have been effected; but physical

fical disquisitions are not our present business, it was happily effected, and *See* so well returned to herself, to desire some tea might be got for breakfast, to which the humane landlady, perhaps with as much *discretion* as *tenderness*, objected, such poor slip-slop was not proper for a body in her condition—Odds lidikins! it was no fit for naught but to meak foalk zick that bin never zo hearty—zome-what warm and coomfortable, to the bowels, woon be much more properer—a little good buttered eale, made puour and warm with nutmeg, or zum zuch loik stuff, bin far better than that maakish, madlin wash, good for naught but gi the belly-eak.

Felicia thanked her good-nature, but said 'twas a liquor she had been accustomed to, and knew would best agree with her, therefore desired it might be got, and that enquiry might be made directly, when the boats went for Gloucester; and if that was not the day, as soon as breakfast was over, a bed might be warmed, that she might endeavor to get some rest.

In grace of God! cried the landlady, and zo thou shat, for boat foalk do no goa till the morrow, and an they did, zartin zhower, thee wo't no be in ploight to goa we'em---good lack! good lack! indeed, forsooth, yow bin mortal bad and weak, 'tis pity of one's heart, that such a featly young body should ha' such a long journey to maak and

no varſal cretur to taak ceare o' thee—I warrant me, thy poor mother, an thou haſt one, has a main ſoore heart for thee—but by my truth, thou ſhat not want one whoile thou doſt byde in this houſe.

Felicia, pleaſingly foothed in ſome degree, from the anxieties that preſſed her, by the humanity and tendernes of the good woman, with a ſmile of complacency ſaid, how unjuſt is the general cenſure upon the want of ſocial virtue in thoſe whoſe portion in life is low and ſlender, how amiable an inſtance is this good creature of the reverſe; *pride* dictates thoſe principles, which would refrain from *poverty* and *bumble bee*, an equal diſpenſation of heaven's influencing goodneſs; and that ſympathiſing feeling it impartially beſtows on *all*, who with an opening heart can bid it welcome.

Ah! bleſſings on thee! interrupted the landlady with great earneſtneſs, I warrant me thee beſt the child of ſome good pearſon, at leaſt, if not a buſhop, thee doſt taak ſo ſoinly—good now! good now! what miſhap has befaalen thee, or thoine, to maake thee wander by thy ſelf zoa? Here the tea being brought in, prevented the good woman's friendly, though officious enquiry, and Felicia from the neceſſity of an anſwer; the other, however, uttered many expreſſions of concern at the homelineſs of the equipage, which ſhe gave another term, ſaying, Alack a day!

day ! these are but ordinary kind of *geare*, but they be clean and whoalsum ; I would, wi aw my heart, for thoy seek, forsooth, I cou'd zaye the liquor was zoa, but ifakins I do no loike it, thof, may-hap, as you do zaye, you bin ufed to't, it may faire better win you ; for my peart, our exoife mon's woife, once perswaded me to zup zome on't, and as shower as you and I bin women, I verily theat I had been a deaad boady, and too be shower the poor woman was in a terrible teaking, thof, for her own peart, I believe I could seafly teake my boible oath she swallowed a queart on't, and I warrant was noither zick nor zorry ; marcy, feather ! how foalk doon differ.

I am forry, replied Felicia, your averfion to it wont fuffer you to keep me company, I fancy 'tis more prejudice, than any real injury can arife from it ; will you venture once more ? Noa, noa, returned the dame, thof' I thank you for your love and koindfness, I han had a foice of coald geamon before zun did peap, and a zoup of beft caal ith' county, thof I zay it--la ! la ! noa body meddles ith' brewing but poor aud Meadge, zoa foalk doon caal me.

After Felicia had received this flight refrefhment, she retired, to endeavour obtaining that of reft, of which she stood, at leaft, in equal need ; and nature having the fupriority over the combating paffions with which she

she was disturbed, kindly afforded her an interval from them of three or four hours, from which, when she awoke, her spirits were in a more calm and untroubled state; and that natural equality of mind, of which she was mistress, began again to resume its place; but it was not long allowed her, to support the happy balance; for going toward the window, how instantly were all her gentler ideas of reason, and resignation to her fortune, again turned into the tumult of contending passions, by seeing her lover, with all the marks of despondency and fatigue, pass by the window? his horse scarce able to support its rider's weight, or he to maintain his seat. Here the softness of her sex was infinitely superior to every settled, calmer thought, which so lately had taken possession of her breast, *that*, succeeded by a tender sensibility, for the situation both of mind and body in which she saw her lover, and of which, but too well convinced, she was the fatal cause, suddenly threw her into a flow of tears, and the following pathetic reflections.

Wherefore is this severe *renewal* of my griefs, when I had almost taught them to be silent? and were they *mine* alone, perhaps, I still might have *continued* their subjection; but the united force of *his* becomes too sharp, too bitter to support, renews with double strength each softer recollection, I fondly flattered me washuſhed, and lulled by reason's aid; but now, not *love* alone, but *friendship* too, superior

superior rise, and baffle every effort calm reflection seemed to insure; the terrors too, which *that* had lessened of those impending dangers my future fortune threatens, are now become the objects of my *fear*, not my approved *resolves*!

The worthy old woman below hearing her traverse the room, and the sound of a voice in a complaining melancholy tone, and well knowing she must be alone, was greatly alarmed, and hastening up stairs, with more feeling than ceremony, opening the door, cried out---marciful feather! what fearful dreams hast thee had, that do thus torment thy poor heart? moine do tremble in my body with concern for thee; do no, do no croi zoo bitterly! ah, me! in truth I be zoor a fray'd it be zomewhat moor than dreams and vancies, that do meake thee teak on zo heavily---whoy woon no ye speæk to meh? good now! good now! whoy thy tears do coom feaster and feaster! and moine woo no haud noa loanger.---Here the poor sympathizing creature sunk into a chair, and both continued silent for some time. Felicia, a little recovering herself, said, my miseries are sure contagious, it had been happier to have fallen amongst such, whose more obdurate hearts were shut against the gentle calls of pity, than *bere* intrude a sorrow, where cheerful peace and calm content, till *now* forbids its entrance----kind soul! if thou would'st

would'st wish to assuage *my* tears, in pity stop thy *own*, or mine will flow still faster.

The humane hostess replied, an croying wou'd bring my poor mon out of his caud greave, where he han layne these noine loong winters, I verily think I wou'd no do it to crass *thee*, and put thy poor hecart to payne; but coom, coom, hoy thee down, and fetch a bit of a waak, it woon divart thee, and loiten thy moind.

This was a proposition Felicia could by no means accede to, the danger of being seen, and known, appearing too hazardous; and willing also to be alone, said, she had a letter or two to write, which would employ her a considerable time, therefore desired pen, ink, and paper, might be sent her up, adding, that she hoped, by that means, to relieve her spirits, and become more composed--the other, in sincerity of heart, taking her round the neck, and kissing her, said, an thou wert my oan ten toimes tould, it could no rejoice me moor then to soind it zoa. Oy'll get thee au the tackle, my zon han a main deal on't, vor he bin a special scholar; and thus Felicia and her kind comforter parted.

A new discovery made, not unpleasant to Felicia.

THE Lad, mentioned in the preceding chapter, to furnish Felicia with materials for writing her letters, brought them into her chamber, with a gravity and decency of address too remarkable to escape her observation, and from whence she was induced to ask him a few questions, in order to discover if his mind corresponded with his behavior and countenance. She received from him such apt and pertinent answers, as quickly disengaged her from the intended purpose of amusement from the pen and ink, which was not meant for writing letters, but merely to dissipate the perplexed ideas that crowded heavily upon her, from the too affecting condolance of her tender friend the landlady; but the promising earnest *he* had given; afforded a prospect more amusing, and such an one that, from its appearance, would suit her own disposition, which it is indeed superfluous to remind the reader was, by *nature*, of the *serious* cast, without the additional weight her *fortune* had thrown in.

The young lad, who was about twelve or thirteen years of age, with a modest diffidence, at her instance, related to her the means from whence he acquired that complacency of manners, which so evidently distinguished

distinguished him from others in the same class of life---that very early he discovered an eager desire after books, which being made known to a neighbouring gentleman, was very humanely cultivated and nourished, by sending him, at his own expence, to Westminster-School, and maintaining him there at one of the boarding-houses, that he might not only receive the advantage of a better literary education than the country usually afforded, but *that* also of a more *easy* and *engaged* one in his *conduct* and *manners*, which his patron observed more frequently recommended mankind than a mere knowledge of books.

Felicia asked him, if the gentleman had withdrawn his humane beneficence, that he was now absent from his studies? He told her, no; but *that* being one of their annual recesses, he was permitted, by his indulgence, to pay a visit to his mother, whose maternal tenderness to him had made such early impressions upon his mind, which no distance of time or place was able to remove; and that now being somewhat more capable of distinguishing, than when he was removed from her, those impressions were more firmly fixed, by that general goodness of heart he perceived her possessed of.

These ideas of natural love and duty, thus rationally supported in one so young, not only surprised, but gave Felicia all the pleasing sensibility her situation of mind admitted.

The young lad, fetching a deep sigh, said, he feared some sudden illness or misfortune had befallen his generous benefactor, for upon his waiting on him, about two days since, he was not permitted to see him; which had never before been refused him; and what confirmed his fears, he had seen him, not above half an hour since, ride by the door with all the marks of discomposure, both of mind and body. I fear too, continued he, lest some person, envious of my happy fortune, may unkindly have done me some ill office with him, or else, methinks, as always was his custom, he would have called; but now he passed, and did not even look toward the house.

This description was too similar to what Felicia had, about the time mentioned, herself seen and felt, not to give her fresh tumult, with the apprehension her *lover* was the person meant; in order to be resolved (as much as possible stifling this new emotion) she asked, who this benevolent patron was, and when told he was the younger son of Sir Harry Herald, it must be left to the breasts of those, who feel the sympathising sentiments of love, to conjecture those blended passions of applauding joy, and heart-felt desperation, which this new instance of desert, in the desired object of her soul, must at once have possessed it with; the *writer* confesses, any description *he* is capable of, must fall infinitely short of the ideas every *feeling* *reader*

reader will form, and their effects were too perceptible not to be noticed by the young lad, though unknowing of their cause.

Felicia, conscious of her too apparent concern, said, relations of such beneficent humanity, ever swelled her heart with such softening sensibility. It was with difficulty she repressed its overflowing at her eyes; but *love* again taking the lead of discretion, she was unable to forbear making farther enquiries, though minute ones, into the means by which Mr. Herald became acquainted with the early prospect this youth had given of his propensity to learning, the exact time of its commencing, with others of as little import, but such as served to *gratify* and *please*, while they *disturbed* and *pained* her mind; nor could she forbear asking a question, to which she had, even before it was demanded, received an answer; whether the lad could suggest any *particular motive* for that alteration of conduct, he had mentioned in Mr. Herald, when he waited upon him last? or the discomposure and languor of countenance he had observed in his passing by the house? These questions, indeed, were not only natural, but necessary for her enquiry, to be informed whether any thing had transpired of the *real* cause that affected his mind; but to that the young fellow had before fully *inferred*, his being an utter stranger, and *confirmed* it in his reply to her.

When *love* had brought her to the brink of imprudence, in being too minutely inquisitive, *reason* refusing its seat, she cried, alas! how has this idle curiosity diverted me from my purpose of writing? The lad had too quick a conception, not to perceive this a sufficient hint for his withdrawing, which he immediately did in the most respectful manner.

Felicia's fears now began, by reflection, to alarm her, lest the perplexity of mind she knew Mr. Herald under, the distraction of disappointment he had met with, and the increase that must be necessarily added to it, from the fruitless enquiries he would be farther chagreened with in Shrewsbury, might induce him to have recourse to the assistance of this young fellow, whose abilities and dependency, both rendered him a very fit agent to be employed in aiding the discovery he was attempting. These were suggestions, the more they were deliberated on became the more formidable, confirmed her apprehensions, filled her with anxiety, and greatly renewed her impatience for the return of morning, when her fears would be removed by entering upon her journey.

The close of the day, however, in a great measure, dissipated her terrors; and she concluded, night and nature, oppressed and harassed, would oblige her lover to desist till the following day from his search, at the break of which she would elude all possibility

bility of a discovery, by the setting off of the boats at that time. These considerations prevailing, she determined to relieve her mind, as much as its situation would admit, with the plain, but honest and sincere prattle of the good old woman, and the more engaging conversation of her son, for the remaining part of the evening. In order to which, she gave directions for a slight supper to be dressed and brought up into her own room, where after their refreshment, Felicia, addressing herself to the mother, told her, she thought her greatly blessed, not only in the *natural disposition* of her son, but in those *additional improvements* he had so happily acquired by an education very unusual in persons either of his age or condition, and could not refrain from saying, she did not doubt he would always remember, with the sincerest sentiments of gratitude, the gentleman who had so humanely become his patron and protector; nay, he had indeed given a very recent testimony of the sense he had of the obligation, for which he stood indebted to him, by the feeling concern he had expressed, at the inquietude and discomposure he perceived in him when he rode by the house.

Good now ! good now ! cried the mother, why then you do know *master* Herald---No, returned Felicia, but from your son's description---Ah ! cried the other, he has a heart as saught and teender as a pigeon's---an he were to know the distress of thy mind, he wou'd

no rest, noight nor daye, till he brooght thee coomfort---a bin a good fowle, and soa bin the brother of 'en, ay, an the seaather---but to saie the truth, the aud mon be main pruwde, but he bin gude for aal that---showre, Sir Harry been moi landlord.

Felicia, finding her spirits too weak for supporting any farther mention of her lover and his family, diverted the subject, the *mother* appeared to have some propensity to dwell upon, by enquiring of the *son*, when he returned to London? what amusements he chiefly followed there? and if he did not find the want of his friends and relations irksome to him? To these questions he gave very sensible and pertinent answers---that his return would be at the stated time his duty directed, that his amusements were in a narrow compass, chiefly in seeing two or three chosen plays in a season, and reading those his income would not permit his seeing; that the pleasure he lost in being divided from his relations in the country, was, in some degree, made up by an aunt, and some others he had in town. He asked her, with a proper deference and modesty, if Gloucester was the extent of her journey, or only intended as making part of the way less fatiguing to London; if *that* was her purpose, and she was not otherwise provided, he would take the liberty of recommending to her an accommodation at his aunt's, who had a very decent house, and would prove equally assiduous with

with his mother, in a proper care and tenderness of her. Felicia, not having many particular intimacies, or friendships in town, and not greatly caring to put any of those she had to a trial, was at first pleased with the proposition; but reflecting upon the dependent connection between Mr. Herald and this family, thought it highly necessary to decline the offer, lest, by that means, she should be discovered, and it might be insinuated she had *flown*, for no other purpose but to be *pursued*, and the remotest conjecture of such a kind, must have proved greatly offensive, to a mind so open and ingenuous as her's.

The early hour at which Felicia was obliged to be up, and the little rest she had received for many that were past, made it necessary no longer to defer that debt to nature, that she might be the better enabled to undertake the fatigue which was to follow; she therefore dismissed her two companions in order to obtain it.

CH A P. XXVII.

Some new characters introduced to the reader's acquaintance.

THE mind disposed by nature to benevolence and humanity, though afflicted by misfortune that oppresses and bears it down, yet feels an abatement of its rigor, whenever it has opportunity of contemplating those

those virtues, in objects that have them in their fullest extent, and at the same time are happily accompanied with *tranquillity* and *ease*, even in defiance of *poverty* and *labour*. Reflections like these, on the little family where she was, were very essential in conciliating the mind of Felicia, and composing her to rest, which having obtained a better portion of than for some time past, she rose in the morning with so settled a composure and serenity, that her good-natured hosts immediately observed and rejoiced in, and who had kindly prepared for her a little store to take on board the vessel, which, having notice was ready for sailing, she embarked in.

The wherries, which are the usual conveyances for passengers, were all full; therefore Felicia, as well as several others, were obliged to go in what, in that country, is called a *Trow*, a vessel more used for the carriage of *goods*, though with some accommodation also for *passengers*, but is more tedious, from its burden, than the *wherries*, therefore not so generally chose.

Felicia now began to think herself in a state of security from being pursued, but was immediately alarmed anew, with the appearance, on the deck, of the clergyman, mentioned in a former chapter to have dined, and afterwards drank tea, with Meliora, Felicia, and their two lovers, at Sir Edward Haunch's. The surprise of seeing each other was

was almost mutual; *her's* indeed was superior, and blended with apprehensions *he* was a stranger to. When he perceived her mixture of fear and wonder was something abated, with great complacency addressing her, said, this meeting, madam, I observe, is not a matter of less astonishment to *you*, than *myself*. Are you *alone* here? Then looking round him, and not seeing any body he knew, with great concern continued, I fear you *are*---what can have induced this *unway*, nay this *dangerous* undertaking, in one so little knowing in the insidious arts of the world? and whose youth and beauty must inevitably expose her to its most infamous subtilties and destructive wiles? what severity of fortune has impelled you to the hazardous experiment?

Felicia, sighing, said, it is indeed my hard severity of fortune which impells, yet I cannot doubt the power that thus permits affliction's hand will still protect, from lawless wrong, the *innocent*. He, interrupting her, with some emotion said, none I hope has hitherto been offered? but 'tis injurious to suggest it from *him*, who holds his honor far above the modern practisers of shameless gallantry. Felicia replied, your candor, sir, and justice, were never employed on one who more eminently deserved them. I shall take a more favorable occasion, sir, fully to acquaint you with every circumstance which has

has concurred to drive me from my *hospitable refuge*, and tempt my fate in the wide unfeeling world.

There was something too particular in the address of these two to each other, and their subsequent conversation, though it was not heard, not to be observed by those who were in view of them, and was more particularly remarked by a captain of foot and his wife, who immediately concluded them lovers, and that their surprise at meeting was calculated to cover them from being imagined such by those on board, as well as the better execution of some design they had planned between them; but as in the course of their behavior there appeared nothing, but what was strictly conformable to the exactest rules of delicacy and good breeding, they were fully persuaded it was an *honorable* affair, and had received some obstruction from an inequality of fortune, and the interposition of parents.

These four were the only persons aboard, who, from their appearance, seemed capable of entertaining each other with a politeness that would be reciprocally pleasing, which naturally led them to the experiment, and proved mutually agreeable to all. People of good sense and breeding become acquainted almost by intuition, and their eyes and manner bespeak a sympathy, which weakness of mind and rusticity of behaviour are utter strangers to. Those of the *former* class from

an agreeable consciousness their purpose is to please, are not absurdly diffident, and from hence arose an easy intimacy between our four travellers, that rendered them all less susceptible of those inconveniences their journey, or any other circumstance, might produce. After the introductory civilities were paid, and a little common-place chat had passed, the clergyman, whose name was *Placid*, said, he could not help considering the *passengers* aboard the vessel, as a very just epitome of mankind; since he made no doubt, were it examined into, there were scarce any two persons aboard, who were pursuing the same purposes, but had various avocations, and very different interests in view.

This remark, though not *intentionally* made, yet was considered so by the officer and his wife, who with half a smile said, pray, sir, what think you of the interest and purposes my *husband* and *I* are pursuing? *they* will be readily admitted, I hope, to have one identical view in this world in *miniature*, as well as those in the *great*, who are as happily united in their affections and regards as *we* are. And since you cannot but allow the multiplied instances of the same kind in *one*, I have my conjectures, we two are not quite singular in the *other*. Very possibly, madam, replied Mr. Placid, if there are any other *married* persons aboard you are *not* singular, and *they* may also consider their interests mutually connected; nected;

nected; but should they not, I am afraid you will be obliged to acknowledge, the multiplied instances of *that* kind are also to be met with in the *great* world, and then my comparison still holds its force. And give me leave, madam, to assure you, your very conjectures give it an additional strength, and make it yet more apt; they are, I am sensible, founded upon appearances; and is there any thing so frequently productive of error, in the *great* round of life? and pardon me, when I tell you, *appearances* have produced the same effect in your conjectures upon what has passed in this *narrow* circle of it; but to be a little more explicit, the particularity of greeting between this young lady and myself, it must be acknowledged, might have given occasion for such conjecture, to one of far less capability of judging, madam, than you are possessed of; but let me inform you, I am yet to learn, and very sensibly affected with doubts and apprehensions, what on *her* part occasioned our meeting here, to which I am induced by the regards of a *friend*, not those of a *lover*, having long since plighted my engagements, of that softer kind, by marriage, to one, who I know will share with me in every distressful circumstance which may attend this lady, and equally solicitous to remove their cause, as I shall be when made acquainted with them.

That, interrupted Felicia, though without even the possibility of hoping relief from friendship's

friendship's aid, you shall be informed of; and if the strange vicissitudes of fortune, which have befallen an unhappy young woman, will not be too tediously impertinent for this gentleman and lady, I shall, without any other reserve than that of giving *names*, relate to *you* and *them* each circumstance which has concurred to push me thus in setting forward upon expedients, that may perhaps be fraught indeed with danger, but cannot sure incur the censure of the severest judge who hears my story---which she then related, with all its particulars, in a manner too affecting not to have spoke to the hearts of such, who had much less sensibility than those to whom she delivered them. The wife of the officer, who had felt the stings of distress, though of a different kind, accompanied Felicia in her tears (which she could not refrain from frequently shedding) throughout many parts of her narrative; nor were the clergyman or soldier, sometimes without their *many weaknesses*.

When Felicia had finished, Mrs. Worthy (the officer's lady) addressing her, with a tender softness of manners, said, madam, be comforted, I have lately, very lately, felt the pangs of almost-a desponding grief; but now a kinder influence smiles, which deep-felt anguish, and even smiling *hope*, shut out the distant prospect of; yet, by a means unsought and sudden, heaven inspired a trusty *delegate*, not less ennobled by his deeds than birth,

birth, and truly formed to execute such gracious purposes, at once to stop our tide of woes, and turn its current into peace and joy. Believe me, madam, *your* griefs, how improbable soever relief appears, you cannot look upon their cure with more despondency than we have done; therefore let hope renew its cheerful warmth, and dull despair be banished from your breast.

Madam, interrupted Mr. Placid, your kindly consolation carries an equal portion of soft humanity and strong conviction with it; despair is doubtless an offensive passion, but speaks a diffidence of the interposing aid which just conceptions of the deity should teach us, that though *with-held*, is yet reserved in our behalf, while truth and innocence maintain their places.

Felicia, with great complacency said, how much am I obliged to both, for these conciliating lessons of instruction? which, though they cannot cure, alleviate pain, nor does my wish extend beyond; first, my *gratitude* forbids it should, to interrupt the peace and happiness of *her*, who for continued years has studied *mine*. Then to involve the man I love in disobedience, loss of inheritance, and the train of ills which must attend them, might gratify the *Fondness* of my heart, but would for ever stain it with *reproach*, and every bliss would droop beneath the load; therefore my task of hope extends alone to *him*, that time, and absence, may render back the peace

peace which now he wants, and *mine*, if *his* may be obtained, shall feel its soft returns, as amply as the hard conditions of my fate will grant.

Captain Worthy, who had very sedately attended Felicia's relation, and these last professions, said, how amiable, how unparalleled are such generous sentiments of love and gratitude? they cannot miss of that reward their merits claim; and though the impediments appear insuperable between your happiness and hopes, were you at large acquainted with that unmerited reverse of fortune in our favour, Mrs. Worthy hinted at, you could not doubt but that the assisting hand of heaven will yet be raised, to crown at full the principles of virtuous truth itself inspires.

Mr. Placid observed, from what his lady and himself so feelingly had mentioned, there must be circumstances strangely interesting and tender in his story, therefore, as both had so pathetically inferred their influencing power, he hoped he should not be guilty of an impropriety, in requesting *that* power might find its fullest force in behalf of the young lady, from a distinct relation of them. With which the reader shall be acquainted in the succeeding chapter.

The history of Captain Worthy, founded on a fact.

CAPTAIN Worthy began his story, by premising he feared he should become too tedious and prolix in relating it, because its circumstances made it absolutely necessary he should have recourse to several incidents, previous to those on which the catastrophe turned, therefore was apprehensive *their patience* would be quite exhausted before *his narrative* was. Felicia replied, could that, sir, prove the case, you have a very sufficient president to quote in your defence; and surely such an apology would, with far more propriety, have become *me*. I doubt, Madam, returned the captain, you will be convinced of your too favourable construction; and, that suspense may not be added to prolixity, let me inform you--

I am the younger brother of a gentleman possessed of an estate, might justly have been termed a good one, had it come into his hands disencumbered; but the weight of fortunes for younger children, and a heavy mortgage, render it little better than a genteel subsistence, and even that has been indiscreetly broke in upon, from an absurd attachment to party, to procure him a seat in parliament, for no other purpose than, at all events,

events, to put a negative upon measures, if proposed by those in power, without considering their *prejudice or utility*, therefore from *his* connections, or circumstances, I had little to expect; and indeed our different sentiments, in principles of government, occasioned a cool distance and reserve, which the rage of party-zeal would never suffer his reason and reflection to warm into that affectionate ardor, which more *forcible* motives ought not to dissipate between brothers.

In this situation we have lived since the death of our father, who, by will, charged the estate with fifteen hundred pounds, payable to each of his three daughters, and myself, in a year after his decease. This was punctually complied with; my becoming at once possessed of such a sum, at an age, that has generally more propensity to extravagance than oeconomy, a thousand pound was lavishly thrown away upon what are called the pleasures of the town; I then began to reflect upon the declining state of my finances, and formed a resolution of buying a lieutenantcy in a marching regiment; which when done, and the necessary equipment made, I found myself reduced to the scanty pittance of thirty guineas. Thus furnished, I went down to country-quarters; not without very severe reflections upon my intemperate folly, which had prevented my holding a superior rank in the army, and more frequently conversing

versing with those who held it in *private* life ;
 yet, mortifying as these reflections were, they
 wanted power to shut out the charms of
 youth, beauty, and love. I there com-
 menced an acquaintance with this lady ; and
 though the fortune her father purposed giving
 her was far superior to my pretensions, she
 disclaiming every interested view with a con-
 ficiency of mind which, through a series of
 misery, my misfortunes entailed upon her,
 she has ever since supported, chose a homely
 meal with love and me, in preference to splen-
 dor, equipage, and pomp ; and I am per-
 suaded, the blended scenes of social joy, and
 anxious pain, (so large a portion which our
 fates have yielded us) would furnish out an
 interesting plan, to exercise the talents of a
 poet the best skilled in the pathetic. And I
 know no other danger in the task, but that
 his *heroine* would be deemed a character su-
 perior to nature. Mrs. Worthy smiling, said,
 however extravagantly the poet might copy
 his *heroine*, from your picture of her, I am
 sure the world would never be induced to
 think the man who gave it had been married
 to her four years. You mistake, madam,
 answered Mr. Placid, 'tis from that expe-
 rience of her merit the character arises, and
 he justified in giving it. If, sir, answered
 Mrs. Worthy, *his* partial tenderness may be
 pardoned in *delivering* it, *my* conscious dif-
 fidence must blush in *bearing* it. Those, in-
 terrupted

interrupted Felicia, methinks, should rather blush, who have the conscious diffidence of *not* deserving it. Certainly, answered Mr. Placid, and I have ever thought the tribute due to modest merit should be no more restrained than the *reproofs* which out *defects* demand, the one adds strength to virtue, the other lessens error; nor will we, as often as occasion calls, suffer the loss of viewing an amiable *portrait*, because the *original* is present. Therefore, Sir, let us beg you'll proceed, and not give this enemy to truth one grain of quarter.

The captain resuming his narrative, said, our regiment continued longer in the neighbourhood of my wife's relations, than I could have wished; since, after many vain efforts toward a reconciliation, and the warmest interposition of friends, her father continued inexorable, even to the forbidding another daughter, upon pain of his future countenance and blessing, from having the least intercourse with her sister, which proved the most sensible affliction to both, there having ever subsisted between them the most tender affection. And her mother, in conformity to the rigorous harshness of her husband, was obliged to do a violence to her nature, and affect a resentment, which after its first efforts had subsided and given way to softer and more maternal emotions.

Thus circumstanced, we were both impatient for a removal, that the mutual happiness

piness we possessed in each other, might not receive those frequent damps and allay we concluded distance would diminish. At length our hopes were answered, the regiment was ordered to another part of England, where, for a while, we enjoyed a less interrupting scene of content. Mrs. Worthy was now far advanced with the eldest of the boys now in the cabin. About six weeks after her delivery, a war broke out with France, and the regiment was ordered to Flanders with the utmost expedition, I now began more sensibly to feel the pressure of a narrow, circumscribed condition, a new and inevitable train of expence rising before me, either in taking my wife abroad, or leaving her and the little one in England, which must incur a charge I was by no means able to support; the latter, when but slightly hinted at, I perceived gave her too much inquietude, to be proposed putting into practice; and the former, though it should conciliate her *mind*, I too evidently foresaw must be attended with the utmost fatigue and danger to her *own person*, as well as that of her tender little charge; the care of whom, from the united motives of nature and necessity, she had solely taken upon herself; nor could the most earnest remonstrances from me, prevail upon her resolution to admit of an assistant.

The man whose mind is even but *slenderly* affected with the tender passions, will readily conceive

conceive the anxious state I was reduced to; what ideas then will *be* form, who has a heart overflowing with the sentiments of *love* and *soft humanity*? such a one will picture to himself the poignant pangs of sharp reproach, in becoming the fatal instrument of plunging into deep distress the object he would wish, in preference to all her sex, might taste unrivalled happiness and peace, which, till *be* soothed her from, she was in full possession of; let me assure you, without pretending to a merit in it, *his imagination* would fall far short of my *real feeling*, with the additional task of forcing myself to the appearance of serenity, lest another conduct should have given farther weight to *that* I had already too severely imposed. But to proceed.

In this exigence, a temporary and immediate redress became indispensable, and no other expedient appeared practicable, but an application to the agent of the regiment, of whom, with great difficulty, and no inconsiderable premium, I obtained a supply of twenty-five pounds, a heavy incumbrance upon the scanty pay of a lieutenant of foot! but consequences were not to be considered in competition with the then pressing conjuncture.

A few days after receiving this seasonable supply, we set out for Harwich, to embark for Holland. It would be tedious, as well as unnecessary, to give a detail of the progress of our journey to the army, though some circumstances

stances of it were not without their distresses, but in no degree proportioned to those which followed; and as they are introductory to the principal end for which this relation is intended, will not, I hope, be too great a tax upon your patience.

Felicia said, those who had been accosted by nature, or the rigor of their fate, to contemplate their *own*, or the misfortunes of *others*, she imagined, were only impatient of their recital, either when they themselves too severely repined at their being inflicted, or perceived the same conduct in others; but when those who *make* the relation, and such who *attend* to it, have minds justly susceptible of resignation and submission, will continue silently attentive, because they are feelingly affected; and as you, sir, have yourself observed, they are essentially material to the end proposed, which was kindly meant for *my* instruction and use; and were any apology incumbent, it could alone fall on *me*, as the instrument and occasion. Captain Worthy said, whatever advantages, madam, *you* may have received from the relation I have been making, they are amply balanced by those *I* have received from so polite and sensible a construction of it; and since I already have my reward, let me hasten to deserve it.

Provisions, and every other accommodation, in Flanders, during the time of a war, are held at a most exorbitant rate; and the people

people, who profess being in amity and friendship, are equally assiduous to make depredations upon their allies, as their allies upon the enemy, with this material difference, one is actuated by an open, generous resolution, the other by an artful, designing cunning, which never lets an occasion escape of exercising its narrow, depraved talents.

Amidst this herd of rapacious animals, I was thrown under the deepest chagrin, in reflecting upon the accumulated expence must be incurred, in providing for Mrs. Worthy's reception, evidently foreseeing my own, and her utmost caution and parsimony, would prove ineffectual, to prevent going considerably beyond the bounds of my narrow income, and that I must be unavoidably plunged still farther in debt. — Here he was interrupted, by their arrival at the town where they were that night to take up their lodging; and the remaining circumstances of his narrative, shall be the subject of the following chapter.

The History of Captain Worby continued.

THE passengers disposed of themselves, when they landed, in such a manner, and at such houses, as their different connections and inclinations directed. Mr. Placid, Felicia, Captain Worthy and *his wife*, were conducted by the master of the vessel to an inn, where they met with very tolerable accommodation, and better indeed than the appearance of the place had promised. When supper was over, Felicia told Captain Worthy, though she was but too apprehensive that many circumstances which were to follow, in the subsequent part of his relation, might, perhaps, carry in them yet greater inquietude and anxiety than even those in the preceding part of it; yet as he had given them reason to hope its *catastrophe* would have a much milder aspect, she hoped it would not trespass too much upon his and Mrs. Worthy's rest, to give it to them then; for to tender minds, the impatience that waited the relief of afflicted merit, from its encumbering sorrows, was warmly solicitous and eager. Mr. Placid joined in the request, and the captain renewed his narrative as follows.

If I rightly recollect, I was recounting to you the exorbitant and oppressive measures taken

taken by the inhabitants, I mean of the *lower* class, in Flanders, to wring from the poor soldiery, not only their pay, but every little moveable of the slightest value any of them might happily be possessed of; though *to these men* they owed the protection not only of their effects, but *lives*. And it should seem strange, that people, thus apparently influenced by the principles of self-love, should demonstrate such an attachment to that passion in matters of *less* importance, yet seem utterly negligent of those which were of the *deepest* and *last* concern to them, by irritating the minds of such, upon whom it depended, to render their most valuable blessings durable and lasting; but I was convinced, by innumerable examples, this was no part of their consideration or regard, and the self-evident proofs I met with were heavy and severe, and threw me under almost insuperable difficulties.

There was yet a distress of a nearer and infinitely more affecting kind to undergo, a separation, and such a one as carried with it, at least the *contingent* appearance of being perpetual, since the chance of war was the sole arbiter between *that*, and my ever meeting again an indearing wife and child. Aggravated by the stinging reflection of leaving them too near the verge of indigence, among a people as little capable of *feeling* their misfortune, as *she* was of rendering them known, not being acquainted with any language but

English; and to this deplorable situation, an additional weight of grief contributed, she was six or seven months gone with child, my departure obliged to be immediate, the enemy in the field, and our encampment begun. Here the *soldier*, *husband* and *father*, the sense of honor, the pangs of *conjugal* and *parental* fondness sustained the severest struggles human nature certainly could undergo; I had the dreadful alternative, either of making a sacrifice of my fame, and slight remains of fortune, by throwing up my commission, or the terrors of abandoning to want and ruin all that soft humanity, and the tenderest affection, had endeared to me. Each prospect was equally, though differently calamitous, and too apparent in my countenance and conduct to escape my wife's observation, who with a tender complacency, joined to an uncommon fortitude, intreated me, not to consider so attentively our present or impending fortune, for that both might yet be attended with some happy reverse, adding, she was elated with hope, that in the *field* some occasion would present itself, in which an opportunity might be given me, of peculiarly exerting my *own*, with the honour of my *country*, and prove hereafter the conciliating means of happier hours. This seasonable and *manly* admonition, instead of raising in me that force and warmth of resolution which it justly ought, still sunk and depressed me more, and I was weak enough to repeat to
her

her some lines out of a tragedy of two acts, called the Fatal Extravagance, which at that instant occured to me; and though not precisely adequate to our situation, with some little variety in the circumstance, I made an indiscreet application of, and were these :

*I was considering, which of my boys,
Some few years hence, when I'm dissolv'd in death,
Will act the Beggar best ! run bare-foot sassest,
And, with most dextrous strugs, play tricks for charity.*

These *imaginary* griefs of others, produced a stronger, and more immediate influence upon her mind, than those *real* ones which so imminently hung over herself, and she burst into a flood of tears, and the severest throws of Anguish. This instantly roused me from my absurd despondency and lethargic folly, and I now found the more *necessary*, though not more *natural*, calls of the *man* became incumbent on me to exert; wherefore, when I found *her* resolution had returned with *mine*, I took as short a leave as possible, and immediately set forward to join the army.

A few days after my arrival, I was ordered at the head of a party, to reconnoitre a post the enemy had taken, which was supposed to be maintained by about fifty men, the number I then had under my command, but upon advancing toward it, we were attacked by

double that number, who very vigorously supported their possession of it for near an hour, when the officer who headed them being killed, and near sixty private men, the remaining number surrendered themselves prisoners of war, and we became masters of the place, with the loss only of thirteen men. This success prompted me with hopes that my wife had been prophetic, in that spirited speech she had a few days before made me; but such hopes were short and transitory, and dissipated almost as soon as raised, by its being neglected on our part to send a reinforcement to sustain me in *keeping* the post, and the enemy's being extremely expeditious in detaching a considerable one to *recover* it; which, though it consisted of three hundred men, we opposed as vigorously as our slight party was capable of, but perceiving it decrease too fast for any distant hope of success, and being myself wounded in the shoulder with a musket-ball, I thought it most prudent to submit, and save the small residue of my men, whose number was now reduced to less than twenty. The loss of blood, from the wound I had received, rendered me extremely weak and faint; I was put into a baggage-waggon, and carried to the nearest place of relief in possession of the enemy, from whom I received all the humane assistance could be expected; and had the *internal* wound I laboured with been as early known

known as that of my *body*, both had received a more immediate cure.

The surgeon, to whose care I was committed, perceived me under great agitation of spirit, from thence began to be apprehensive of a fever, which he assured me must unavoidably ensue, if I did not endeavour to shake off that anxiety, whatever it was, which he so evidently perceived hung upon my mind; pressing me repeatedly to unlade my bosom, and if any thing in his power could assist me, I should readily command it.

The concern with which I now more immediately laboured was, lest my wife, having been informed of the engagement I was concerned in, and my being wounded, should conclude, from not hearing from me, I was killed; she not being sufficiently enough acquainted with military affairs, to know the difficulty there was of conveying letters from the quarters of one enemy to those of another. This I disclosed to the worthy man who had me under his care, who being himself a lover and husband, (two characters but rarely united) was very sensibly affected, assuring me, he would by some means obtain a representation to be made to the general, whose humanity, he was convinced, would readily induce him, not only to gratify my wishes, in procuring a *letter* to be sent, but as soon as the condition of my health would admit, enlarge me, upon my parole of honor, *personally*

to enjoy the heart-felt transport his own sympathising nature taught him amply to conceive.

Both these obliging engagements were punctually fulfilled, but the pleasure of the latter too long protracted, by the difficulty that arose in extracting the ball from my shoulder, during which time, poor Mrs. Worthy's fears for my safety, were transferred to *me*, in alarming apprehensions for *her's*, by receiving an account the enemy had laid close siege to the town in which she was, and those apprehensions were very near being too fatally supported in their consequence, by the falling of a bomb upon the roof of the house where she lodged, which beat all that part of it to pieces, and killed the wife of a corporal whom I had engaged to attend and assist Mrs. Worthy, but fortunately, herself and child were in another part which remained entire. This accident, it may reasonably be supposed, not only increased, but kept her terrors perpetually upon the alarm; but it had this good effect in her favour, it greatly contributed to *soften*, or rather *frighien* the mistress of the house, into a conduct more gentle and humane, but upon the advancing of a large body of our army to the relief of the town, the enemy thought fit to withdraw from before it, by which, though Mrs. Worthy's fears were removed, her *inquietudes* were renewed, by the petulant and penurious disposition of this goodly dame, whose heart was incapable

incapable of beating to any other object than its own preservation and welfare; for when the enemy marched from before the town, the terrors which had occasioned some slight traces of humanity instantly vanished, and the savage again took place.

I shall not trouble you with the recital of an infinite number of perplexing, and some very distressful circumstances that occurred during our absence from each other, but give your sympathising minds some relief, from those already related, by informing you my worthy friend, the surgeon, in a short time procured me the promised restoration both of health and liberty. When every thought of our narrow, circumscribed condition, was for a while obliterated, by the unfeigned pleasure both received in our happy meeting, after the hazardous dangers both had so nearly escaped of an eternal separation.---But I will pass through the following frowns of our fate as lightly as possible, for I perceive, madam, addressing himself to Felicia, those I have hitherto been obliged to mention, have had too sensible an effect upon the softness of your disposition.

Why, sir, replied Felicia, I have, indeed, been very sensibly touched with the variety of ills which have befallen such uncommon merit, truth, and virtue; but then the interposing providential hand, which intervened toward the *last* impending stroke, and the promised prospect of its future influence, supports

ports the spirits, with that pleasing passion *hope*, against the force of incidents, which otherwise might prove too powerful for their strength.

Mrs. Worthy said, she doubted, whether any of their spirits were in a situation to attend longer to a relation, even though its circumstances were the most entertaining, and abounded with amusements, since it was now grown late, and many hours passed since they had received any rest, and there was a necessity for their being up extremely early to pursue their little voyage, therefore hoped they would excuse Mr. Worthy till morning, for their mutual benefit.

This, Felicia said, she must admit was prudent, yet could not accede to, without some degree of reluctance, and all retired to their several apartments.

CH A P. XXX.

A farther continuation of the history of Captain Worthy.

THE next morning after the vessel had been some short time under sail, Felicia told Captain Worthy, she hoped he would not impute her impatience, in pressing the renewal of his narrative to any idle curiosity, but to that interested concern she really felt, for being informed of the happy

means

means by which fortune had changed her malevolent aspect toward him, and thrown her severer frowns into the smiles of gentle peace and joy.

He answered, he was doubly obliged for the mutual share she partook of in the past *severities* he had felt, and the present *tranquillity* he now possessed; that he was extremely sorry he was under the necessity of yet recounting some passages, which he was too apprehensive would trespass upon that sensibility of nature her tenderness so evidently subjected her to---However, interrupted Mr. Placid, the lady, I think, is not defective in an equal proportion of *fortitude*; but it must indeed be admitted, she is more remarkable in exerting it, by the depressing her *own*, than those evils which attend others; but as she herself yesterday observed, since the relation is made principally for *her* service, it is incumbent upon her to throw out all her powers of philosophy, and apply them to the proposed uses;---which, replied Captain Worthing, that the lady may have the earliest occasion of doing, let me acquaint you, that a few months after my enlargement, upon my parole of honor, a treaty of peace was concluded, the army was embarked for England, where, when we arrived, several regiments were broke, amongst which ours was fated to be one; and if I had before sensibly felt the utter insufficiency, in the *full* pay of a lieutenant, to support myself, a wife, and a child,

child, how melancholy was the situation of being reduced to the *half*, with the addition of a second child? which was born soon after our arrival in England.

Here, Felicia, fetching a deep sigh, Mr. Placid said, recollect, madam, that both those children are now before you in a *prosperous*, *happy* state, and far removed from that *distressful* one, your present ideas seem to picture them in; and one would almost imagine the little innocents were themselves *conscious* of the happy change, from the sprightly cheerfulness you see them engaged in.

Felicia acknowledged the justice of the rebuke, and desired Captain Worthy to proceed, telling him, she would avoid giving occasion to any farther interruptions.

He then related a variety of affecting circumstances, which the narrowness of his income, and weight of debts subjected him to, the necessity of parting with every little ornamental trinket, which yet remained of Mrs. Worthy's former situation in life; and at length, even their very *cloaths*, that were of any tolerable value, she insisting *hers* should be first disposed of, not having either inclination or opportunity of making any appearance abroad, being obliged, both from duty and affection, to pay a constant attendance at home in the care of her two little boys; nor did *his* disposition, or safety, admit of being much seen, and that only within the *verge* of

the court, to avoid the yet farther misery of a prison.

After we had remained, continued he, for three or four months in this deplorable state, both Mrs. Worthy and I concurred in opinion, there was no other expedient left, to obviate our present or future miseries, but finding some means to convey her and the children to her father's, throwing themselves at his feet, and imploring his forgiveness and assistance; that however obdurate and inflexible his heart might remain to *her*, the unoffending innocence of her *little ones*, must melt, and soften him to their protection and relief.

Reflections so plausible and natural made the expediency of the journey determined on, but the means of executing it could not, alas! be so readily resolved upon. While these were under deliberation, and we were tired with running over the names of persons to be applied to, and could not summon up resolution enough to speak to some, or a sufficient opinion of others benevolence. Mrs. Worthy said, well! if a tender regard to the memory of the dead pleads on *one* side, a nearer and more affecting call urges in behalf of these dear little ones; and, rising, went to a drawer, taking out a small, gold, tooth-pick-case, given her by a deceased brother, which she had always said, and I had resolved, should be reserved, whatever exigence we were driven to---putting it into my hand,

hand, with tears streaming from her eyes, said, my dearest brother ! if it is given thee to be conscious of what now presses thy unhappy sister, in parting with this last pledge of thy unalterable love to me, thou wilt, I know, much rather pity than reproach me, and compassionate these distresses, which nature enforces me to commit *against* nature. Then addressing to me said, if, my dear life, you can raise money upon it with a possibility (if it should ever be in our power) of hereafter redeeming it, I could rather wish it, than to have it fold beyond the means of recalling.

Here the serjeant of the company to which I had belonged, and who frequently, as he termed it, used to pay his *duty* to me, knocked at the door, and it was impossible to hide the disorder we both were in, and of which the worthy honest fellow had his immediate share, and cried, I hope, sir, you, nor my good lady (so his respectful deference called her) have not lost a friend ? I replied to him, honest George, people circumstanced as we are have but *few friends*, and holding the candle out, said, this is the last and only friend we have left, and *this* we must part with, I am glad you are come to do an office for me, I must have gone through with more than common anxiety, take it, and raise what money thou can'st, but leave it in the hands of some friend you can depend on, that if fortune should

should ever smile again, it may be redeemed with thanks.

This worthy creature, who had all the rough bravery of the *soldier*, with the feeling sensibility of the *man*, (and, indeed, I believe they are but rarely disunited) said, I hope, sir, you will have the goodness to pardon what I am going to say to your honor; and though I know my unworthiness to become a friend to a gentleman under whose command I have served, yet, as I am truly sensible of the mild treatment you gave me while I had that honor, I am encouraged to tell you, sir, perhaps it is in my little power to be your *friend*--- Ah! sir! can I ever forget that you twice saved my life, at the hazard of your own? will ten pounds be of any use? I can spare it without any inconvenience, the public-house I am in affords me a comfortable living, I am out of debt, and have saved that sum, I will fetch it this moment---and in saying this he left the room, while Mrs. Worthy and myself were silent with grateful wonder.

In about a quarter of an hour, a person came with the money, directed and sealed up, and the serjeant afterwards told me, the reason of his not bringing it himself was, lest I should have objected to the taking it; and he had been careful also to prevent *that* being done to the person he sent, for the parcel was made up in such a manner, we did not know the contents, or from whom it came, till the messenger was gone; but had not my necessities

sities been pressing as they were, I think I ought not to have rejected it, lest it should have given pain to so worthy and deserving a man.

Thus happily and unexpectedly provided, in a few days my wife and the two children set forward for her father's seat, leaving me two guineas, from our little exchequer, for my own supply. Notwithstanding this absence, from all that love and nature had endeared to me, great part of the time was supported more tolerably, than I had for a long series been acquainted with; hope filled up the interval with its pleasing prospects, and animated me with the firm reliance on the persuasive powers of my two young advocates, in their mother's, and their own interesting cause. In these pleasing ideas I was strengthened by a letter from my wife, in which she gave me an account of her having altered the measures we had concerted together, of directly going to her father's, for such reasons, as upon reflection, she judged more probable of procuring success, by applying to a neighbouring gentleman, of weight and fortune, and who lived in great intimacy and friendship with her father, and who very humanely undertook to present her and the children to him, and made no doubt of influencing him in their favor.

Hope, now, was almost flattered into security, and my mind raised from its former dejection, into a pleasing contemplation upon those

those happy hours which were now approaching; but alas! hope had indeed *flattered*, and those pleasing contemplations were totally reversed by the return of the next post, by which I had an account that all the humane remonstrances of this worthy gentleman, the kneeling supplications of my wife, her own, nor the tears of her two little pleaders, were sufficient to raise the smallest spark of humanity or tenderness in her father's bosom, but that his indignation and resentment appeared more strongly confirmed than ever; nor did it confine itself to *them* alone, but broke forth even against their generous advocate, by telling him, he had always considered works of supererogation, indeed, in *slight* affairs, as a proof, perhaps, of *good-nature*, but in matters of weight, and such, especially, as interfered in families, he must be excused, if he looked upon them not quite correspondent with the rules of good-breeding; adding, if, sir, you think this woman, and her beggars, such objects of compassion, you have my unlimited leave to take them into your protection and care, as to *mine*, she has forfeited all pretensions. For *these*--pointing to the children--were they the offspring of any *other*, they might indeed affect me with some concern, but being *hers*---Here the gentleman, a little warmed with the indelicacy of his treatment, said; whatever, sir, are the defects of my *good-nature* or *breeding*, I am not

not likely to receive any considerable improvements of them by my continuance here, therefore shall take my leave, but have still enough of both to hope a little time and reflection will bring you to remember, you are a *gentleman* and a *father*, till when, I will endeavour to supply the office of the latter---and taking a boy in each hand, at the same time, in the most affectionate manner, addressing my wife, said, come, madam, the coach that brought us hither is ready to carry us back---and in that, immediately, conveyed them to his own house.

This was no little alleviation to the first efforts of my concern, and continued its effects till the receipt of two or three subsequent letters, from which I had both the pleasure and mortification of learning, that every man was not equally blest with myself, in the social happiness of the married state, by having a woman of delicacy and softness of nature.

The lady to whom this worthy gentleman was unfortunately joined, wanted much of that gentleness and quietude of mind, as well as that sympathy for others miseries, which ought to be the characteristic of her sex. These qualities produced many irksome alterations with her husband, attended with severe invectives upon burdening his family with *brats* and *beggars*; nor were distant innuendoes of jealousy wanting; and so little reserve was maintained, in either her general conduct

conduct or speech, that it quickly became too evident to escape Mrs. Worthy's observation, which, you will readily conclude, made her imagined assylum more miserable, than any of those ills it was hoped and intended to redress. In short, her patron was drove to the necessity of telling her, yet with the tenderest delicacy, that her removal became unavoidable, both for the preservation of *hers* and his *own* peace; and for that purpose told her, he would prepare against the following morning, a commendatory letter for her reception into a family at Shrewsbury, where he advised her to wait, in prospect of her father's return to reason and nature; till which happy crisis, he would take care to see every expence discharged, and send her and the children thither in his own coach. In the proposing her removal, he had only anticipated her own determination; but the obliging circumstances attending it, she justly concluded, his lady had put it out of her power to accept of, consistently with that decent pride every woman of honor should support, though driven to the utmost exigency; therefore declined every other obligation, than that of accepting the use of his coach, which could not possibly be dispensed with, both for her own, and the convenience of the children, the distance from Shrewsbury being fifteen long miles. And had she condescended

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condescended to have received this gentleman's farther beneficence, she had undergone a severe disappointment, for in two or three days after her departure from his house, he was suddenly snatched away by the stroke of an apoplexy.



THE



THE
HISTORY
OF

SIR HARRY HERALD

AND

SIR EDWARD HAUNCH.

PART III.

CHAP. XXXI.

Conclusion of the history of Captain Worby.

THE melancholy contents of these last letters, continued Captain Worby, threw me into a despondency beyond what I had before known, this inflexible austerity of her father shut out every prospect of hope, while it opened those of misery, want, and every circumstance of distress.

Loaded with these heavy reflections, unable to sleep, I rose the morning after the receipt of

of the last of these letters, very early, and wandered into Chelsea-fields, from whence, after some time, I almost involuntary returned into the Park, sat down upon one of the benches in the bird-cagewalk, where I had not been long, before a tall, thin gentleman, wrapped up in a great coat, came and sat down at the other end of the bench; but as I was too deeply pressed, and involved by thought, long to retain the remembrance of his being near me, unknowingly I betrayed, by a disturbed gesture, an evident dejection of countenance, and by repeated sighs, which broke from me, that disorder of mind under which I laboured. This discomposure, too remarkable to be long unobserved by one so near me, at last prevailed upon the gentleman to address me with an humanity, blended with the most perfect delicacy and politeness, in the following manner.----Your having, sir, the appearance of a gentleman, readily induces me to hope I shall stand excused for the liberty I take in breaking in upon your contemplations; but the severity of them appears too rigid, not to demand the interposition even of the obdurate; but *humanity* cannot refrain from deviating from the rules, I am conscious good-breeding prescribes, by enquiring, if the griefs with which you seem oppressed, are capable of redress, by any means, but those of consolation and advice, if *they* alone can assist, I shall not pay so bad a compliment to your *understanding*, to suppose it insufficient,

by time and reflection, to become your own best instructor, and have too much diffidence of my *own* to attempt it; but if-- (I must again, sir, solicit your excuse) if, I say, your oppression of mind arises from the frowns of an undiscerning world, the negligence of friends, in promoting your interest and merit, as a soldier; (for from your habit I presume you have been such) if any of these, sir, are the motives to this inquietude you labour under, perhaps, if you have confidence enough in me to unlade your bosom, I may be capable, if not wholly to *redress*, at least to *mitigate* your griefs.

This was delivered with such complacency, such integrity of heart, mixed with a dignity of mind, too great to promise what it had not determined to perform, that I was instantly void of every idea cautious suspicion might have given of a person less distinguishable, in his manner of addressing me, therefore opened to him every minute circumstance of my life, which after attending to with a grave and manly sensibility, took out a pocket-book and pencil, desired my name, and that of the colonel in whose regiment I had served, that I would meet him upon that bench the following Thursday, and he might, perhaps, find means to remove the malady which hung thus heavily upon my mind. Then putting five guineas into my hand, said, physicians, sir, begin by slight prescriptions, to revive the spirits, they hope their future
visits
I

visits may *confirm*, and, rising, was about to go, when observing I was endeavouring to address him with my thanks, prevented me, by adding---your heart, sir, is written in your filling eyes, and cover *me* with equal confusion, in *receiving* their warm acknowledgments, as *you* in *paying* them, therefore let me intreat---no more---but remember Thursday---and conclude me your friend, and very humble servant. Thus taking his leave with a politeness of behavior, which rather seemed to manifest the having *received*, than *conferred* a favor.

If, from this interview, my heart swelled with grateful ideas, how did it overflow from the *subsequent* one? to which he was precisely punctual, and I instantly read some happier fortune in his face before he spoke, for *his* extensive mind was too much enlarged, to attempt *covering* the good he had in store, the more to enhance its merit, but was as impatient to unfold, as I was to hear. Sitting down, and throwing his hand into mine, and pressing it with an eager warmth, at the same time looking at me with the most evident pleasure, said, I am greatly rejoiced, sir, to find myself as little mistaken in your *acting*, and *thinking* like a gentleman, as I was in your *appearing* to be one, though under the disadvantage of neglected dress, and oppression of spirits, but integrity of manners is too conspicuous to be clouded by the want of *external* ornament, or shaken by the least digression

digression from truth and honor, all which are verified in the character I have had the pleasure of receiving, sir, of you, from Colonel ——— and several other gentlemen of rank in the army; but am sorry to inform you, I have not been able, fully, to accomplish my purpose, in rewarding that merit as *I hoped*, and which it amply *demands*. Then taking out of his pocket a parchment, said, there, sir, is a captain's commission upon the Irish establishment, had there been a vacancy upon that of England, it would have been obtained for you; and there, sir, are some necessary directions, sealed up in that packet, from the secretary of war's office, to be observed on the other side the water, whither you must repair as soon as conveniently you can. Then pressing me again by the hand, and rising from his seat, added, and now, sir, I wish you a good morning and a happy voyage.

If *realities* ever appeared *visionary* to any man, they then did so to me, and my senses were in that kind of tumult dreams produce, uncertain, fluctuating, confused, and, utterly deprived of speech, I had only power to grasp his hand. When this great, good man, perceiving my agitation, cried, my continuance here, I am convinced, prevents your spirits from returning to their due order, therefore let me intreat I may be gone. My reason and reflection now began to return; and following him, as he hastily made from me, I

caught hold of his arm, and breaking into speech, with the utmost fervency, intreated him to pardon me, if I could not suffer his departure, till I was informed *where*, and to *whom*, at a more proper time and place, I might pour out those grateful thanks, which then crowded too quick for utterance. This he for some time persisted in refusing, but my urgent and repeated supplications, and our being remarked by some people at a little distance, induced him at last to say, well, fir, when you wet your commission in Ireland, among other friends, remember the D--- of M--nt--g--u; and now permit me to renew my wishes for your happy voyage, and take my leave. Then walked precipitately away, no doubt, to prevent *my* replication.

After the first transports, naturally arising from such an immediate, and amazing transposition of fortune had a little subsided, I began to consider of means for raising money to discharge my incumbrances, defray the expence of a proper equipment for my new situation, and conveying me to take possession of it. This necessarily brought to my recollection, the sealed orders, my noble patron had given me, from the secretary of war's office, in which, I concluded, the time was specified for attending my command, and from the knowledge of which I should be better capable of regulating and dispatching my private affairs. But when I broke it open, what new streams of joy and gratitude flowed to
my

my heart, in finding two *bank-notes*, for a hundred pound each ! This additional, and princely instance of munificence, added to the impatience I before felt, of waiting, the next morning, to pay my humblest acknowledgments of duty and gratitude, for such astonishing proofs of unbounded beneficence. But a *nobility of mind*, which distinguished this truly great man, more than that of his high birth, had carried him, early that morning, out of town, (as I was afterwards well assured) to prevent his receiving the tribute of thanks, he concluded I should come to pay him, and which I never had opportunity of doing, otherwise than by writing, and the most ample and open declaration of them to the world.

When I had discharged the demands upon me, and transacted some other necessary affairs, I rode post to Shrewsbury, to congratulate with Mrs. Worthy upon this unlooked for catastrophe of our fate ; and we are now our journey to Bristol, there to embark for Cork, in Ireland, where the regiment at present is.

Thus you find, madam, a family, not fourteen days since, plunged in the depth of misfortune, almost, by miracle raised, if not to affluence, to a condition of life infinitely superior, even to their most sanguine *hopes* ; then let me intreat, *our* example may influence that good sense you are mistress of,

to conclude, heaven is ever ready to redress, by means proportioned to its wisdom, therefore far beyond the limits of our narrow comprehension.

CH A P. XXXII.

A scene at the play-house.

THE following day brought the vessel to Gloucester, where, when they arrived, Mr. Placid complimented Felicia with an apartment of his father's house, who was an eminent tradesman of that city; prevailing upon her to postpone her journey to London for a few days, not only to recover spirits after her fatigue, but till *he* should have an opportunity of escorting her thither, where he was himself obliged to go, after the dispatch of some business which required his continuance a short time at his father's. Felicia very readily accepted the obliging proposal, and was more particularly induced to it, from the inconvenience which would have arose from being at a public inn; it happening not only to be the assize week, but there was also a very large meeting of gentlemen upon a considerable match of cocks and horses. This occasioned great difficulty in procuring any accommodation of lodgings, if not previously bespoke; and Mr. Placid was obliged to exert his interest in favour of

Captain

Captain Worthy, and his family, in a private house near his father's, or they must have gone two or three miles out of town to have lain.

This public occasion had brought thither the company of players from Bath, and Captain Worthy, the day after he arrived at Gloucester, paying a visit to Mr. Placid and Felicia, proposed making a party that evening to the play, but Felicia, a great while, declined it, till prevailed on, at the instance of Mr. Placid, she at last acceded to it, though with reluctance.

The great resort of people, then in town, occasioned a crowded house, and many were obliged to sit upon the *stage*, amongst whom was this party. About the middle of the play came in four or five *choice spirits*, who would have been more properly disposed of amongst their dogs and horses, than to have mingled with polite company, of which there was a considerable number, but however unfit (from their condition or conduct) they were to appear, they seemed by no means conscious of it, but in the most conspicuous manner thrust themselves forward upon the stage. Felicia immediately observed Mr. Scent (some time since mentioned in the course of this history) one of the foremost; at the sight of whom she was so much alarmed, it was quickly noticed by Mr. Placid, who had not, till she informed him of the occasion of her concern, recollected him. Felicia would have directly

left the place, but Mr. Placid, very properly, advised against so particular a behavior, which he thought would rather appear as intended to *create*, than *evade* observation, and her caution would have proved wholly fruitless; for this notable *'squire*, though in his soberest hours, not very remarkable for discernment, yet notwithstanding he was now pretty far removed from such a situation, however, had penetration enough left to make him presently mark out Felicia, toward whom he immediately advanced, and addressed with a rude familiarity, by loudly crying out---By the wrekin! the little run-away; ecod! I am glad I have met with thee! if thou wo't, *I'll* take thee into keeping, thou shaltn't have occasion to flee from---

Here Mr. Placid immediately took him aside, telling him, that lady was under his protection, begged he would accost her in a more respectful manner, or entirely desist from taking notice of her. Why, what a murrain! returns the sagacious *'squire*, dost think thou hast got into thy *pulpit*, where thou canst talk to folk without being answered? but 'tis quite a contrary case here, *parson*, this is a place for liberty of conscience. And of decency and good-breeding too, I hope, sir, replied Mr. Placid. Ecod! answered the *'squire*, the world's come to a fine pass, when gentry are to be taught how to behave to a *wench* by a little prating *parson*. Mr. Placid replied, the world indeed *was* come

come to a fine pass, when gentlemen behaved in such a manner, that it must be concluded they had no pretensions to the *name*, but what *fortune* gave them. Scent, presuming upon this gentleman's profession, began to bluster, and be outrageous.

Captain Worthy, who imagined Mr. Placid's remonstrances would have shewn this doughty spark his error, was quickly convinced of his own, by overhearing the effects they had upon him; therefore, to prevent his renewing the same conduct, he thought it necessary to step from his seat, and whisper this *eldest* of the family of the *Wrongheads*, that the young lady, about whom they were debating, was not only under that reverend gentleman's protection, but *his* also; and if the admonition he had received was not sufficient to prevail, there were other measures to be taken with people who remained obstinate, but hoped he would prevent the necessity of putting them into execution.

It is an old, but very just observation, that *tyrants* are ever *cowards*, which was amply verified by the present instance of this *rural Bashaw*, who answered that maxim, in its fullest extent, amongst his *servants*, *dependents*, and such others, whose situation he knew prevented their proper resentment; but out of that circle, was as timid, as the deer, hares, or foxes, he had been the constant persecutor of; wherefore the captain's remonstrances had a far more immediate

influence

influence than the *clergyman's*, whose profession was not quite so productive of *fear*, and violence subsided forthwith into calm submission, with servilely saying, By the lord! I had no manner of intention, d'ye see, sir, to anger my old friend the parson---why, I warrant me now, he has followed my dogs ten or a dozen score days hunting, and by the lord, I have as good a respect for him, as I have for the best of the pack. As for the young gentlewoman, I must own to you, captain, (for that I suppose you be at *least*) I have had a liking to her a long time, and perhaps could make her as good a jointure, d'ye see, as another, but that *argusies* nothing---little said's soon amended---thof, an I were disposed to marry, I have no body's consent to ask but my own.---And the lady's I presume, sir, replied Captain Worthy. Oh, by the wrekin! cried the 'quire, there's little danger of *that*, where there's a round parcel of acres, and a jolly tite young fellow---Nay, sir, returned the captain, if your intentions toward that lady are upon an *honorable* foundation, I wish you all the success your merit demands, but you must give me leave to tell you, your manner of addressing her gave me very different ideas, and your subsequent behavior to this gentleman confirmed them, but if---Here Scent interrupting him, said, why, to be sure, I have none of the cant of your fine finicking London chaps, but what of that! I have a better estate then half of 'em.

'em, thof you don't fee the beft of me neither, for between you and I, I have three or four bottles of the ftoutest October in England in my guts, and that you know will make a man gabble a little too faft, and if fo be you will be my friend, and fpeak a good word for me to the young lafs to make matters up, why, I'll fend you a hogfhead of the beft ftingo in the king's dominions, thof it were to the fartheft brink of them, d'ye fee!

Captain Worthy told him, he feared his intereft with the lady was but flender, however did not doubt ſhe would readily receive his fubmiffion, which he would acquaint her he was ready to make---Noa! noa! replied the other, not now, not now, I ſhall be in better trim i'th' morning, and then---come, doctor, you mun be my ſecurity, my godfather wo't, then I warrant me we ſhall all be as roight as my leg---where be your quarters, hay?

Mr. Placid told him, the lady lodged at his father's, though did not know how he ſhould account to her for acquainting him with it, but upon the neceffary condition of his making proper atonement for his late conduct, which the place they were now in would by no means admit. No, ecod! answered Scent, I ſhould be mortal ſhamed before all theſe folk, I'll e'en hie me to bed, for beſure my head is ſomewhat crazy at preſent, fo, my noble captain, and doctor, I wiſh

wish you may both get as sound a nap, as I shall to night. So saying, he marched off at the head of his mirmidons, who all this while were attending to the play, till called upon by their commander in chief, to whom they payed an implicit obedience, for a very usual reason, because he always payed their reckoning.

Mr. Placid and Captain Worthy returning to their seats, where they were very impatiently expected, gave an account of their negotiation to Felicia, and the visit of ex-piation she was to receive next morning, with which she seemed greatly disconcerted ; but Mr. Placid remonstrated to her, they were the easiest terms of *then* getting rid of him, and that his impertinence might much better be dispensed with in private, than in public. To which Captain Worthy added, it had ever been a maxim with him, to get rid of fools upon the easiest terms, and hoped, upon re-considering it, she would be of opinion, that his *morning* folly must be more eligible than his *evening*.

After the play, they supped together at Mr. Placid's, where measures were concerted for the reception of this polite and accomplished visitant.

Containing some circumstances which the intelligent reader might foresee would happen.

THOUGH Mr. Scent's endowments were not very remarkable in their extent, either of common *sense*, or common *decency*; yet that narrow *subtlety*, brutal fools are frequently possessed of, was not so far extinguished the preceding night, but it occurred to him, that the most practicable means of getting out of the hands of Captain Worthy, whose coat or countenance he did not violently accord with, was to cover his conduct towards Felicia, by *honorable* pretensions of his courtship, not only as a measure to calm the captain's growing resentment, but facilitate his own introduction to her the next day. In both these he succeeded, though the interview did not indeed produce the effects he purposed to himself, which were, the prevailing with her, by a profusion of promises of marriage, settlement, &c. without farther ceremony, to go off with him, as he *elegantly* termed it.

This proposition was previously introduced by a conduct very different to that she had ever observed in him before, with a modesty and distance that were too apparently constrained not to be seen through, and were rejected by Felicia with that contempt they deserved,

deserved, and strenuously objected to by Mr. Placid (without whose presence, she would not consent to receive the visit) as highly injurious to the lady's honor, and if his *own* was firm, as it ought to be, what objection could there be to putting his propositions of marriage into execution *there*. Felicia very coolly interrupting Mr. Placid, said, she knew but of *one*, which was her want of inclination of longer hearkening to them, *there*, or elsewhere--and in saying this left the room, though not without taking such a leave as she thought became the occasion.

Scent expressed a very high resentment at the rejecting him in so absolute a manner, murmuring as he left the room, by the wreckin she should repent it. From whence Mr. Placid conjectured, he meant the paultry revenge of discovering where she was, therefore advised her removal as expeditiously as convenience would admit, and she herself had previously determined; not merely from Mr. Placid's apprehension, but to avoid the irksome address of so disagreeable a suitor.

Mr. Placid transacted his affairs as expeditiously as possible, and those the time would not admit, he left under the direction of his father, and in two days Felicia and he sat out in the stage for London, after taking leave of Captain Worthy and his lady, who the same morning began their journey for Bristol, in order to embark for Ireland.

Though

Though Felicia's removal was conducted with as much caution as possible, yet the wrathful *'squire*, who was warmly meditating mischief, by some emissaries he employed, obtained notice of it, both *how* and *where*, she was going, and determined to get her at all events, into his possession. To which purpose, he hired a chariot and six, engaged four or five of his hunting and drinking companions to attend him on horseback. With the assistance of these, and two of his own servants, he determined, at a proper distance, to force her out of the coach, and carry her off. This was a scheme precisely calculated to the morals and manners of the rough brutish undertakers, and greatly elated them with the prospect of their imagined success; for obtaining which, this redoubted cavalcade, well armed, set forward about half an hour after the coach, and at six or seven miles distance overtook and attacked it, under the specious pretence of Felicia's being sister to Scent, a lady of great fortune, inveigled away by Mr. Placid from her father and family, in order to force her into a marriage, or perhaps something worse.

This pretext, infamous and wicked as it was, and supported by an armed power, was sufficiently specious, to prevail either upon the reason or fears of the other passengers and coachman, not to make the least resistance had it been in their power, which indeed

indeed it by no means was ; nor could the repeated cries of Felicia, or the earnest remonstrances of Mr. Placid, obtain remittance of the purpose of these *ruffians*, but they immediately dragged her out of the coach, hurried her into the chariot, and instantly drove off to the next cross road. When they imagined themselves at a sufficient distance to evade a pursuit, Scent dismissed his companions, concluding he might then depend upon himself and servants.

Mr. Placid quitted the coach, and going on foot to the next small town raised a posse, and as soon as horses could be procured followed them ; in about three hours he overtook the chariot, but the wished-for *prize* was fortunately escaped ; for driving too precipitate, and in very bad roads, the chariot was overturned ; by the fall Mr. Scent's arm was broke, and he was otherwise greatly hurt and bruised ; but, happily, Felicia received no other injury than the fright occasioned, which was quickly dissipated, by finding herself in a situation to obtain her freedom from the impending ruin which so lately hung over her. The two servants were so busied in the care of their master, who for a considerable time was wholly senseless, that she found herself fully at liberty to make her escape, which was not observed by either, till the coming up of Mr. Placid with his posse, and then the prevention was both too late

late and impracticable, had they attempted it. The humanity of this gentleman, though extended to a most unworthy object, immediately induced him to give his assistance in bringing Mr. Scent to himself, putting him into the chariot with one of his servants, and making enquiry from some of the people he had brought with him, for the residence of the nearest surgeon, to whom he ordered him to be immediately carried, after asking some account from Scent's servants (who were unable to give it him) what was become of the lady? but judging the fact as it was, he sent off the posse, except one to carry back the horse to the place he had hired it from, and went in search of Felicia, but without the desired effect.

Leaving Mr. Placid, humanely busied in his care for the young lady, it will be necessary to give the reader some account of the distresses she incurred, though infinitely short of *that* she had so lately escaped. The hurry of spirits, which may be easily conjectured she was in, carried her a considerable way, without regarding either path or place, for *distance* only, was the sole object of her wish, to avoid the pursuit she dreaded might be made upon Scent's recovering from the condition in which she had left him, not knowing tpe so severe, though just chastisement he had received, imagining only the fall had stunned, but not so materially hurt him, as

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(for *her* preservation) it providentially had. In this terror and confusion of mind, she wandered over a heath, near three miles in length, without meeting a single creature to enquire where, or in what part of the country she was, till at last, quite harrassed and spent with the fatigue of both mind and body, toward the end of it, she found herself under the necessity to stop, and sit down in this barren place for a short respite, to enable her to get on till she should find some house, or meet any person that would kindly direct her to one; but after an hour's tedious expectation, she was still obliged to follow the uncertain steps of chance for her guide, which brought her, after walking near three miles farther, to a small cot, into which she could not get entrance, all its inhabitants being abroad, therefore was obliged to sit down upon the sill of the door, for to attempt going on, she found herself wholly unable. After continuing there some time, the mistress of the place came, from whom she procured a little milk, and a hard lodging for that night; it being then too late, and her spirits too far exhausted, to propose moving.

Here she continued till the following morning, with little consolation, more than what the pleasing ideas gave her, of being delivered from the imminent danger which had threatened her. These reflections, and wearied nature, contributed, in despite of the poverty and

and indifference of her lodgings, to afford a tolerable night's rest, which she was obliged to take, without undressing, upon a matras and some hay. Coarse as the entertainment was, yet it gave, what was not to be procured without it, a fresh fund of spirits for the following day, and enabled her to undertake a second expedition on foot, in order to gain the next town, there to be provided with some kind of carriage, which was by no means to be obtained where she was. A boy, even, was with difficulty got, to shew her the best and nearest way; with whom, after another short meal of only milk, the whole sustenance she had received since her leaving Gloucester, she sat out with her guide, who escorted her safe to the proposed place, where she procured some tolerable accommodation both for herself, and the more easy prosecuting her journey.

Too much time was now elapsed, to think of overtaking the coach, and there was no other conveyance to be had, but riding behind a man, with whom she agreed for that purpose. Nothing material occurred during this part of the journey.

She not only having left in the stage-coach, the few clothes she brought with her from Sir Edward Haunch's, but being greatly solicitous to know what was become of her good friend Mr. Placid, ordered the fellow who rode before her, upon their coming into London,

London, to enquire where the Gloucester coach put up, which with some difficulty getting informed of, directed him to carry her thither, where we shall now leave her safely arrived.

C H A P. XXXIV.

The scene changes from London to Shropshire.

IT becomes necessary in this place to recur a little to some other principal characters of our history, in the families of Sir Harry Herald and his *brother-baronet*.

The younger Mr. Herald, after several days fruitless search after Felicia, returned home, with visible marks of disappointment and despondency ; the occasion of which his father and uncle too readily conjectured to make an inquiry into. The latter, however, after having very warmly expostulated with him upon it, told him, he perceived he wanted only persisted in his disobedience ; and that it plainly appeared from his most extraordinary dejection, and languid countenance, that all advice was thrown away upon him ; and, continuing the severity of his harangue, why the fellow's *doubly* a fool, said he, in pushing a good estate from him, and going mad after a wench, that does not care twice for him, but has fairly taken to her heels, and run away, on purpose to get rid of

of him---If *you* are in love with brats and beggary, the *girl*, you see, has more understanding, and is marched off in search of a better market.

His nephew, not thinking it prudent to irritate him farther, said, could I retain a passion, sir, for a woman of so mean and narrow a mind, I should then merit the same contempt she would; and should those prove her sentiments, you would quickly have reason to hold a very different opinion, from *that* you are at present pleased to have.

Sir, replied his uncle, pettishly, I am at present pleased to have just such an opinion of you, as you seem at present pleased to *deserve*, and when I find *you* alter your *conduct*, I shall alter my *opinion*; and begin as soon as you will, depend upon it I'll keep pace with you. Charles told him, he might rest satisfied, his conduct should always be exactly conformable to that of a man of honor. Yes, sir, returned Mr. Herald, but perhaps you and I may think very differently, what the word *honor* means. I presume, sir, said the other, every gentleman considers it in the same view-----I presume *not*, sir, retorted the old man, I'll answer for it, you and I consider it in very *different* views; *you* think it consistent with your honor to this girl (provided she had maintained her's with you) to keep your's with her; now *I* think it consistent with your honor to *me*, to break it--- Here

Here they were interrupted, by a servant bringing word, dinner was upon table.

When the cloth was drawn, young Mr. Herd was greatly apprehensive his father, or uncle especially, would renew the subject which had preceded dinner, but was fortunately relieved from that fear, by a servant bringing him word, the young lad, mentioned in a former chapter to have been taken under his patronage, was come to pay him his duty and compliment of leave, being obliged the next day to set forward on his journey back to London, in prosecution of those studies he was so benevolent to support him in. The young gentleman ordered him into his closet, well pleased at the occasion of being released from his apprehensions, and immediately withdrew.

Sir Harry, and his brother, expressed great satisfaction at the disappointment Charles met with in his pursuit of Felicia, both uniting in their hopes, that it might prove a means, after some time, to disengage his affections; and Mr. Herald repeated the opinion he had given his nephew, that Felicia's withdrawing herself, in so extraordinary a manner, was an evident proof of her indifference. How far he was right in his conjecture, will more fully appear to the reader, when he is informed of the conversation that occurred between the nephew and his young charge, which we rather choose to furnish him with, than

than the subsequent conjectures of the two old gentlemen, as not being so immediately conducive to the carrying on our history.

The young lad had collected from the family, secrets which were whispered from the steward, down to the stable-boy, namely, the whole transaction relating to his *patron* and Felicia; and the copy of the letter she had wrote to Meliora being, by some accident, left at his mother's house, where Felicia had lodged during her stay for a passage to Gloucester, had fallen into *his bands*; and comparing the circumstances he had heard related, with the matter contained in that letter, and recollecting the alteration of countenance in Felicia, at being informed by him, that Mr. Herald was the gentleman to whom he was obliged for his education; these, conjunctively, made him suggest she must be the woman who had given his worthy benefactor so much anxiety, and that the account he was capable of giving him, of the place to which she had bent her course, might probably afford him some ease, at least, he considered it as a circumstance, which would give him an occasion of testifying that duty and regard he thought himself obliged to manifest. Therefore, after having expressed his concern for not having had the honor of seeing him before, since his arrival in the country, and for that apparent inquietude, and alteration of countenance he observed when

when he saw him ride by his mother's house, told him, he hoped he would have the goodness to pardon him for presuming to say, he had great reason to conclude, that the young lady, who had *caused* that inquietude, was at the time he passed the house, then in it, waiting for a passage to Gloucester, in her way to London.

Mr. Herald, with a mixture of pleasure and surprise, asked him, how he came by the information of any affair relative to a lady? and if there *was* such a one, what motives he had to suggest she was at his mother's at the time he had mentioned? To these demands the lad answered, with the utmost deference, that the information he had received, was from no one particular person, but from the general whispers of the family; and this paper, sir, continued he, which I found after she was gone (presenting him the copy of the letter) makes me presume *her* the very lady.

Mr. Herald, after reading the letter, and observing the boy under great confusion, said, my worthy honest lad, be not under any apprehension, thou hast rendered me a most satisfactory service, by thy penetration and integrity, in making known to me a circumstance, I was truly anxious to be resolved in. This letter makes it evident, beyond doubt, it was as thou hast suggested. Communicate this to no person breathing, not even your mother.---You set out for London to-morrow, I shall

I shall be there as early, or perhaps earlier than you; I shall there have occasion for thy farther service and assistance, which this accident may possibly put into thy power to afford me. And after making him a handsome present dismissed him.

This incident, with his resolution of directly going to London, he forthwith made known to his brother, who was too intimately acquainted with his heart, to throw even the slightest objection in the way, except *that* of his fear of being properly supplied with money for his own exigencies, as well as those of Felicia, should he be fortunate enough to meet with her. But this objection was no sooner made than obviated, by telling him, he was pretty well assured, a gentleman in the neighbourhood would advance whatever sum was necessary upon his security, that he would immediately apply to him; but thought there was yet something farther to be done, which had been heretofore mentioned, but not put into execution, the having a reverfionary deed of conveyance from *him*, drawn up and signed, before the other left the country, of his uncle's estate, provided, as he had declared, he should, in resentment of his brother's persisting in his passion, revoke the settlement, as it then stood, and transfer it to *him*; that at this crisis it became indispensable, because *that* being secured, it must prove a prevailing circumstance

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circumstance with Felicia to compleat his wishes, since the tenderness and delicacy of her fears, in proving pernicious to his future fortune, had been the sole objection to their consummation, and would also conciliate his own mind, in putting out every possibility of plunging the woman he loved into any difficulties of mind or person.

This great and, 'tis to be feared, unexampled instance of fraternal regard, was received with the acknowledgments such exalted friendship called for, and was put into execution with all the secrecy and dispatch the nature of the thing would admit, though not with so much as the impatience of the lover required, who considered the intermediate space as a kind of blank in time, in which that *old gentleman* had morosely blunted the edge of his scythe, and reversed his usual course; but lovers have whimsical heads, and fondly imagine, not only *time*, but even *place* should vary its situation to gratify their wishes.

During the time of transacting the above business, Mr Scent was brought home pretty well recovered from the punishment so justly inflicted upon him, for the purposed violence upon Felicia, whose being accompanied to London by Mr. Placid, now became generally known throughout the neighbourhood; Scent having thrown out indirect and broken hints of it, as an affair injurious to

to both their reputations; and, in attempting to prevent which, he had received those hurts he then laboured under.

A report of this kind was a matter of too much triumph, to Mr. Charles Herald the *elder*, not to exult upon, to his nephew, the instant it came to his knowledge, and he did not omit the severest exaggerations he could suggest.

The *Casuists*, in love affairs, have hitherto left it an undetermined point, whether jealously be a *blameable* or *commendable* passion, whether it reflects the largest portion of dishonor on the *suspicious*, or *suspected*, where guilt does not prove to be the source of such inquietude. Nor should it seem strange, that a disquisition so extremely nice in its nature, should yet remain unresolved. The lover who hears a tale, supported by concurring circumstances (no matter whether rational or not) which convey but the slightest glimmerings of taint upon the character of the desired object, would perhaps be arraigned with *indifference* and *neglect*, not to feel the warmest sensibility, and an instantaneous alarm at it. Or, on the other side the question, be reproached with harbouring such pernicious and *mean* ideas, where *honor* demanded a more ingenuous and enlarged opinion; yet I am induced to think those who are most *passionately* acquainted with sentiments of love, will be apt to confess themselves, even upon very

slender motives, if not agitated with *absolute jealousy*, yet warmed into a tumult of mind, but little inferior to it. But this appearing a kind of distinction, without much difference, I believe 'tis better to leave it where I found it, and not undertake its definition.

CH A P. XXXV.

Containing some incidents, which, to many readers, may appear unnatural.

THE lover of Felicia may, perhaps, appear to some, an *instance*, to others, an *exception*, to being ranked in the class of admirers, mentioned toward the end of the preceding chapter. He was, indeed, stimulated with a stronger impatience than before, to hasten to London, and become *self-resolved*, if possible, of reports, which though they *alarmed*, could not properly be said to make him *doubt*; but when his uncle inveighed with sarcastical warmth upon Felicia's late conduct, as a proof of the suggestions he had formed of her, his bosom swelled with a generous indignation, and contempt of such insidious rumors, and his own weakness, in suffering them to intrude upon his quiet, made him a-while deliberate upon calling Mr. Scent to an account as the author. But reflecting that the situation, in which he then

was, rendered him incapable of answering such a summons, made him decline the thought of it, and applied himself wholly to expedite the means for taking his intended journey, which, when put into execution, convinced his uncle, that the invectives he had thrown out against Felicia, were wholly ineffectual toward carrying their intended purpose, and served only to give an additional heat to that fire he had hoped to extinguish. So determined a perseverance in error, (for such his uncle considered this amorous attachment) administred fresh matter of resentment and indignation, renewing his resolution with great warmth, of disannulling the settlement he had made, and transferring it to his elder brother: which when he again communicated to him, he, as before, used all the dissuasive arguments imaginable to prevent, intreating him, for some time, to suspend the execution of it, and urging the old gentleman's opinion of Felicia's conduct, as a motive for such a suspension; since, when his brother should himself receive but the slightest inducement to coincide with that opinion, he was well assured, every *sister* sentiment would be exchanged for just *abhorrence* and *contempt*.

To this the uncle listened with some attention, and his passion began to subside into a gentler and more affectionate disposition, for the sudden harshness of temper, to

which he was so frequently subjected, was indeed but the disturbed *surface* of his mind, which the least blast of opposition ruffled into a storm, ever ready to rise from those latent motives, mentioned toward the beginning of this history. But the course, *unmolested nature* had prescribed, was calmer, and more disposed to the smooth tides of *humanity*. These cooler reflections immediately determined him to follow his nephew to London, in the hope he should there be better capable of discovering the imagined correspondence between Mr. Placid and Felicia, and by that means more amply demonstrate to his nephew, the folly and madness in pursuing so destructive a passion.

This resolution he communicated to his brother the baronet, who, from a parent's natural tenderness and affection for a son, was rejoiced at any means proposed to rescue him from an act he judged so highly injurious to his honor, and future welfare; yet was greatly solicitous he should be present at the marriage of his eldest son, for which all things were now adjusted, in a manner agreeable to the wishes of every party, but the two *principally* concerned, Alfred and Meliora, who had mutually resolved it should be deferred, till the situation of their friends affairs had a more pleasing aspect. And when at a meeting of the two baronets, and the lovers, it was proposed a day should be
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named for the solemnization. Alfred said, he thought it would (if the day was capable of receiving any additional joy) contribute to it, in a most essential manner, to have a reconciliation first brought about between his father, uncle, and brother, which he flattered himself a short time might produce. That he hoped the lady would do him the justice to conclude, he committed the severest violence upon his wishes, in making so uncourtly a proposition; and had that high opinion of her delicacy, she would consider it with that refinement of thinking so conspicuous in her.

Meliora, to cover from the old gentlemen her real motive, replied, with an artificial smile, *she applauded such generous sentiments of brotherly affection, that she had no claim to that share in the gentleman's heart nature had so properly bestowed upon his brother, and should return him the compliment in reserving a corner of hers, for the reception of a female friend. And since they both maintained this discretionary power, she saw no great danger in a short delay.*

This reply was considered by both the baronets, as a rebuke of the same cold complexion with *his* indifference, merely to retaliate upon him a parallel conduct, but which secretly covered a warmth of resentment, which both were apprehensive might be attended with disagreeable circumstances.

Meliora perceiving their countenances clouded with disapprobation, at what Alfred had declared, in consequence of their previous resolutions concerted between them two, and that her answer was looked upon by both the old gentlemen rather as a *reproof*, than *approbation*, of her lover's sentiments, thought it necessary to come to an explanation that carried more solemnity with it, and that should appear the result of her most serious reflection; therefore very gravely addressing herself to Sir Edward and the other baronet, said, she was apprehensive she had, with too much levity, treated the extensive thinking of her lover. That the man who could carry his *friendship* to so just and elevated heights, could alone be susceptible of the purest and most exalted ideas in *love*; and if the general tenor of Mr. Herald's conduct, as a man of honor, virtue and truth, had *before* made just impressions upon her mind, this *peculiar* instance of it had strengthened and confirmed them unalterably.--- That she must powerfully join with him in the request, nay, hoped she should be pardoned in saying, she *insisted* upon its being granted.--- That a reverse conduct would, on *his* side, not only carry all the marks of a cold *disregard* to his brother's present, unhappy situation, but an insulting triumph.

Sir Harry told her, the whole female history of the first families in Europe, could not

not furnish a similar example of such *heroism* of heart, and the blood that flowed in *her's* was pure and undefiled, as ever ran in *regal* channels. Her *father* too, though in a less pompous phrase, united in the applause, and said, why faith, Sir Harry, I think the girl's *sound*, wind and limb, and fit to be tried upon any course in England, and when that's the case, it does not signify the smack of a whip what's the breed.

In compliance to the joint remonstrances of Alfred and Meliora, their marriage was deferred. The uncle followed his nephew to London, and matters remained in the country almost in a state of inactivity.

CH A P. XXXVI.

Measures concerted between Felicia and Mr. Placid.

THE reader's *curiosity*, (and we are induced to think his *concern*) is, by this time, warmed into some impatience, to be made acquainted with the new situation Felicia was embarked in, and with what kind of aspect her fortune seemed to regard her.

When she came to the inn where the coach put up, Mr. Placid, to her great disappointment, had not left word where he was to be enquired after, which threw her under much

K 5 perplexity.

perplexity to determine in what manner to bestow herself, having depended upon his assistance and advice in that particular. It being then late, she could not come to any other resolution, than continuing there that night, leaving it to the next day to provide a proper place of residence. The gentleman, in whose hands her little fortune was, would have been the fittest person to have applied to on this occasion, but that it must have proved the means of discovering to Sir Edward Haunch's family where she was; for this gentleman, she knew, transacted all his affairs in London, and though he must in some little time be applied to, when the scanty provision of money she was mistress of was expended, she considered there would *then* be no necessity of making him acquainted in what part of the town she lived, or that the state of things in the country might by that time have taken some different turn, which should render her caution less necessary; she therefore applied herself to the woman of the inn, to recommend her to some sober family where she might both lodge and board, who very ingenuously told her, she feared it would be difficult to prevail upon people of credit and reputation to receive into their house a single woman, who had neither relations nor acquaintance in town to speak to her character; that she had, indeed, all the *appearances* of a very sober discreet

discreet body, but that, to be sure, it had a very odd look, for a young handsome woman to come *alone* to a public inn in London to enquire after a lodging, without so much as naming one person that could give any account of her.

These objections had too much reason and truth in them, either for Felicia's resentment, or a sufficient reply; and that which she *did* make, was no other than a confession of the justice of them, followed with a sudden flow of tears, not only from her delicacy of mind, in being reduced to the necessity of receiving so *indelicate* a remonstrance, but from the exigence and difficulty it drove her to in finding any reception.

There is a native simplicity in distressed *innocence*, guilt is unable to affect, which gains an immediate credit with the mind. Such was the influence Felicia had with the mistress of the house, and was so strongly prevalent in her favor, she forthwith threw aside her prudential cautions, telling her, there was something so modestly winning in her person and behavior, she was sure could not cover any deceit, and therefore she would, herself, be surety for her to a neighbour, she believed had convenience both to board and lodge her, and she would directly go and make enquiry about it. Felicia thanked her for this obliging confidence in her favor, adding, she hoped the family she was about applying

applying to were such as were moderate in their manner of living, for the little she was mistress of, was unequal to entering into an expensive one. The other replied, the person she intended speaking to lived in a decent, clean kind, but was none of your flighty folks, and was the very sort of body that would suit her.---Put on your things, and step with me, 'tis a small distance, and in as quiet a street as any in London.---O! I know it's the very thing.

Felicia accompanied her conductress to the place, of which she approved, and the conditions proposed, continuing there, without returning to the inn, where the following day, Mr. Placid came, in his proper habit, to enquire after her, having thought it needless to have done it earlier, or to have left any previous direction, concluding she could not have been got to town before that time, and using names, he judged fruitless, as improper, very justly supposing, her own caution would prevent any knowledge arising from thence, therefore only described her *person* as fully as possible, and the circumstance of her being taken out of the coach by Scent, which he naturally imagined must have been spoke of by the coachman, with the farther indication of her clothes being left behind, which she would certainly be induced to come and enquire after. These concurring accounts, readily convinced the landlady,

lady, Felicia was the person he enquired after, and very ceremoniously told him, if he pleased, she believed she could conduct him to the young gentlewoman he wanted, and accordingly went with him.

After the mutual compliments good-breeding demanded, Mr. Placid, with a warm benevolence of heart, that does honor to human nature, congratulated Felicia upon her escape from that danger which had so immminently hung over her head; relating the measures he had taken to rescue her from it, had not the overturning of the chariot so providentially put it in her own power; but telling her, he was apprehensive she must have undergone great fatigue and difficulty in so remote a part of the country, before she met with any tolerable accommodation or convenience to pursue her journey--the particulars of which she gave him, adding, that thought she reflected with indignation and horror, upon the infamous purpose Mr. Scent had meditated, yet she hoped heaven had not so rigorously punished him to destroy *life*, but had spared him for that serious reflection and amendment, so depraved a mind stood in need of.

Mr. Placid told her, her humane and generous wishes were in part gratified, and there remained no other danger, than the want of just reflection upon the inequality of the punishment he had received, to the intentional

tional and shocking mischief *that* punishment had prevented; and though Mr. Scent was not the most remarkable for that kind of behavior the polite world called *elegant*, yet he feared him so far tainted with what was fashionably termed *Gallantry*, that with too many other young fellows of fortune, he did not consider the ruin of women infamous, or even reproachable.

Felicia said, however fashionable such pernicious principles might be held by some, she was sure there *were* men, who stood in the first rank of politeness and elegance, that considered them with that detestation and contempt they so justly merited.

Mr. Placid told her, he was far from giving his opinion as general, that he knew instances of very opposite sentiments, and it was greatly to be lamented when such gentlemen, who had imbibed them, were restrained by the unequal distributions of fortune, from doing that justice to beauty and virtue, such sentiments suggested; adding, he hoped the trust and confidence, she had reposed in him, would apologize for the liberty of asking her if such a man should prosecute his attempts, towards rewarding those merits in *her*, by following her to London, which he imagined would certainly prove the case, what resolutions she had taken upon so critical an occasion? She answered, the same resolution which had hitherto supported her
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in the principles of truth and equity, in opposition to the tender calls of love, and had induced the precipitate retreat she made, from his farther sollicitation, would *still* induce her, by all possible methods, to avoid any interview, should it prove as he suggested, and she herself too much feared. And, if by any chance, Mr. Herald should discover where she was, she hoped those resolutions would be equally capable of maintaining their former strength; though such a trial I think improbable, since he can scarce receive any intimation whither I bent my course, or should he know it was to London, the difficulty of finding *me*, not known to three persons in it, and determined to be seen by none out of this house, seems almost insuperable. There is, indeed, one possible means occurs this instant to me, his getting knowledge at Sir Edward's, of the gentleman in whose hands my shattered fortune remains, to avoid which, I must farther trespass upon your generous friendship, to wait upon him with a written order from me, for the payment of the interest now due; and hereafter, in your absence, I must trust to some future happy chance, for providing means to continue the same cautious conduct, in secreting from that gentleman where I am.

Mr. Placid told her, if the prospects which brought him to London were not defeated, in his promised preferment there, she would have

have no occasion for recourse to any other person, since he should be ever proud to render her *that*, and any other service in his power; but he could not help dissenting from her in opinion, that Mr. Herald's only probable means of discovering her would be by an enquiry of *that gentleman*, since not only Mr. Scent, but his servants, knowing she was taken out of the Gloucester coach, the latter, it was most probable, would be apt to tattle of it in the neighbourhood; he himself, indeed, might be induced from some sparks of decency, to be silent, but servants too generally had but little regard, either to their own, or their masters reputations, therefore would scarce remain silent; and Mr. Herald, it might be concluded, would not be inactive in obtaining information; and should he follow to London, having received any such, of her being in the Gloucester coach, it seemed highly probable, his first enquiry would be at the inn where *that* put up, and as to any confidence which might be reposed in the woman who kept it, he feared, she might too readily be bribed out of it; therefore thought her removal absolutely necessary, since she remained determined in the opinion of not coming to an interview with Mr. Herald.

That, Felicia said, was indeed a danger she had not apprehended, but now appeared obvious, and must be forthwith prevented.
Mr. Placid

Mr. Placid made offer of procuring her a proper place amongst some of his acquaintance, and said, he had purposed it upon his coming to the inn, and was surprised to find her so immediately provided. She said, the world was too apt to be busy in its *general* censure, but upon gentlemen of his profession, were *particularly* forward, in their indulging an invidious appetite. And his humane partiality in her service might be attended with some malevolent insinuations, which she thought both for *his*, and her *own* sake, would be better avoided; that the friendly and necessary caution he had suggested, had now brought to her memory a person she could confide in, and with whom she was sure to remain in secrecy; and nothing but the agitation of spirits, she had so long been harraised with, could have prevented her earliest application there; it was to another foster parent, though not equally happy in circumstance with *him* she was banished from, namely, the poor woman who had nursed her, and from whom she had constantly received an annual letter, ever since her being under the protection of Sir Edward Haunch, and to whose care her father again committed her, (her mother being dead) when his misfortunes obliged him suddenly, for some time, to quit the kingdom.

Mr. Placid said, he thought she could not be in a more secure retreat, and desired she would

would give him directions where she was to be met with, and he would take care to find, and send her, since going to make the enquiry herself, would be attended with difficulty, from her want of knowledge of the town; nor was that the only inconvenience, which might occur, to an entire stranger. This was mutually concluded on, and he then took his leave.

C H A P. XXXVII.

Calculated to keep the reader in suspense.

MR. Placid's advice for the removal of Felicia, from the lodgings she had first taken, was very critically judged; for in about three hours after she was gone, her lover came to town, and, as had been suggested he *would*, immediately went to the inn, received information from the mistress of it, where she *imagined* she was; for she had then no intimation of her being removed, nor caution given herto keep it secret, that becoming unnecessary, from the sudden and new dispositions which were taken.

It will readily be conjectured, with what warmth and emotion he hastened to the expected pleasure of such a meeting, and with what dejection of spirit he received the account of her having been gone, not above
three

three or four hours, and without leaving the least intimation, or trace of being found; and all he there collected, relative to her going, but added to the severity of the disappointment, by being informed she went away, after a very short notice, in a hackney-coach, with a *clergyman*, who had before been there.

If *ever*, he that instant felt a short pang of jealousy, but the high sentiments he had so long entertained of her virtue, and delicacy of mind, immediately repulsed so injurious a thought, and again renewed those ideas she was so justly intitled to; and upon reflecting also, that Mr. Placid was a married-man, the *self-reproach* he felt became as painful, and more lasting than *that* he had so unjustly, though momentarily, thrown upon *her*.

Recovered therefore from this lapse of his violated faith, and every tender transport of the lover returning, he eagerly hurried into the city, to make enquiry of the merchant who was her trustee; but, there too, it became fruitless, he not having seen, or, till then, heard of her being in town. There was now no other remaining hope (and that a very glimmering and unsubstantial one) but from the youth he had taken under his patronage, who was, for the present, to quit the pursuit of his studies, and follow another more difficult and absurd, than even the
utmost

utmost *extravagancy*, or *pedantry* of the schools ever yet invented. But 'tis a matter of little wonder, *Cupid* should run madding after empty and ridiculous searches, when most venerable *sages* have been known to spend their whole lives in as senseless vagaries.

Improbable, and arduous, as this task appeared, the employer, and employed, were almost equally sanguine in the undertaking it; the young lad, considering no difficulties severe, or even insurmountable, his *patron* should think fit to direct his attempting, from that just and grateful sense he retained, of his beneficent and humane regards to him, but apt and ready as he was to execute any commission should be given him, his commander was involved in perplexing doubts and intricacies, what measures were to be taken for commencing the enterprize; and, all which were suggested, appeared equally liable to be defeated. But *heroes*, intent upon victory, spurn at all opposition, and each improbability seems lessened, in proportion to the merit to be obtained in acquiring the wished-for wreath.

In pursuance of this purpose, various expedients were tried, art and industry exercised in their utmost extent; but their strongest and repeated efforts proving wholly ineffectual, recourse was again had to the gentleman in the city, on the presumption, that from the time which was since lapsed, Felicia's

Felicia's affairs must have rendered it absolutely necessary, to make her application there; and the suggestion was rational as true, for application *had* been made, though not *personally* from *her*.

Mr. Herald received information that a *clergyman*, whose name was Placid, had been there, with an order under her hand, for the receiving what money was then due to her, but was not to be prevailed on to give any intimation to Mr. Fairfax (which was the name of the merchant) where she was to be seen or spoke with, though he had urged it in the most pressing terms, seconded by assurances, of rendering her any services in his power, in memory of her dead father, for whom he had ever held a very high regard and estimation, and should be glad of an occasion to manifest that esteem to his daughter; and more especially, as Mr. Placid had represented her to him in a very amiable light, for that superiority and delicacy of mind, she had manifested in the whole progress of her conduct, relative to Mr. Herald, and to avoid whom, though passionately in love with him, she had thrown herself into the most perplexing difficulties and dangers, and now suffered herself, rather to be immured, than subjected, by appearing abroad, to the hazard of his discovering her; left her fond partiality in his favor, should induce her to consent to those pressing instances she was conscious

conscious he would make her for a marriage, which would so highly incur the displeasure, both of his father and uncle, from which last he had such extensive expectations. These favourable representations induced Mr. Fairfax to say, he would gladly give her the protection of his house, and desired Mr. Placid would pay her his compliments, and give her such an invitation in his name; to which he with great pleasure assented, and said, he should use what power he had with her to accept of, as the most eligible thing she could possibly do, but begged to be excused, giving him, then, an account where she might be seen, since he had received an injunction from her, to keep the place of her residence an inviolable secret, which he made no doubt, upon her knowing his generous intentions, she would no longer wish should be kept so from *him*.

This detail Mr. Fairfax made to Mr. Herald, adding, that he had not since seen the gentleman, from whom he received it, to know the young lady's resolution, therefore yet remained an utter stranger where she was. Mr. Herald apologized for the trouble he had given him, and took his leave, not displeased with the probability, remote as it was, of Felicia's accepting this gentleman's humane proposition; and by that means, of his gaining access to her, fully determined to set his young emissary upon this new scheme of observation. When he returned to his lodgings,

lodgings, where this juvenile minister paid constant attendance, he furnished him with proper directions, for reviving the plan of vigilant attendance, which for a while had subsided, from its want of success, and appeared impracticability; but the present views seemed to flatter with more sanguine hopes, and he had immediate orders to give his closest application to watch the house of Mr. Fairfax, that should Felicia make *that* her refuge, he might have immediate notice. But this proved as abortive as every other measure, which had been pursued toward discovering her, though it was attended with another circumstance of some success; for by this means, he received intelligence of his uncle's being in town, who was brought to that house upon the same occasion which had carried *him* thither, and to as little purpose, both *there* and at the inn.

Mr. Fairfax made the same recital to the uncle, he had before to the nephew; and having noticed the peculiarity of behavior in the latter, in those mixed emotions of pleasure and disappointment, so evident in his countenance, at the account of Mr. Placid's conduct, together with the relation of the permanence, yet delicacy of the passion of his mistress, and the chagreen at the improbability of recovering her, had concluded *him* to be the lover; and acquainted his uncle, who made himself known, of his nephew's having been there upon the same occasion.

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If the account given by Mr. Fairfax gave fresh strength to the tender impressions in the heart of the *young* gentleman, they also contributed greatly to soften those severe ones the *elder* had conceived, in the disfavor both of Felicia and Mr. Placid, and they now held a more candid place in his opinion. Mr. Fairfax assured him, should the young lady accept the invitation he had made her, he should think it a duty incumbent on him, as he was himself a parent, to give him the earliest intimation of it, that he might pursue such measures, as he should judge most proper upon the occasion.

The young lad, who was in waiting, continued upon his post of observation, 'till Mr. Herald returned out of the house, to be more fully convinced it was the uncle of his patron; whom he had seen only once before in the country, and was justly apprehensive, by so superficial a view, as seeing him stand at the door, so short a space as being let in, that he might be liable to be mistaken, therefore, upon his coming away, followed, and viewed him more minutely, till he went into a hackney-coach, got up behind it, and saw him enter the house where he lodged, and being fully convinced, hastened instantly to give his master notice of it.

An unexpected discovery.

IN a conversation between Mr. Placid and Felicia, he acquainted her with the hospitable proposition Mr. Fairfax had made, of receiving her under his protection, and offered it as his opinion and advice, that the accepting it would prove the most prudent step she could take; very properly urging, that the place she now resided in, though it might merely serve the purpose of remaining undiscovered, yet could not, in the bounds of probability, answer any other subsequent salutary end; but that from various considerations, it appeared to him, every concurring circumstance induced the embracing so advantageous a proposal; and as *that* gentleman was perfectly acquainted with the circumscribed situation of her fortune, he could have no pecuniary views in solliciting her making his house an asylum, and his having determined to make it such in the strictest sense, must have been his sole motive to the offer.

Felicia told him, as to the obliging and humane intention of Mr. Fairfax, she considered it in the same benevolent light he did, but the objections on her own part stood in the full force with her, which they did

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upon her first coming to town, that making an application of refuge to that gentleman, must be considered as an *oblique* intimation of being discovered, while she *affected* to remain in secret, and such an imputation, she was convinced, he could not wish should be thrown upon her.

Mr. Placid said, her own conduct had removed the very objection she started, by the cautious assiduity she had used in avoiding any remote imputation of that sort, from her apparent disinclination of applying to Mr. Fairfax, of which he himself must always remain an uncontroverted testimony; and even censure itself must admit, there was a very material difference between *her soliciting* such a reception, and Mr. Fairfax having made her the *invitation* to it. Felicia answered, she had as little reason to diffide in his *judgment*, as his candid and humane *regards* to her welfare and interest, therefore should implicitly resign herself to his direction, desiring he would yet add to those beneficent offices he had already done her, in paying her compliment of acceptance and thanks to Mr. Fairfax, and if it proved agreeable to him, she would the following day wait upon him, and put herself under his obliging patronage.

This commission Mr. Placid executed with Mr. Fairfax, who told him, whenever the young lady thought proper, his house should be always ready to receive her, and he should do

do every thing in his power, to render it as agreeable to her inclination and interest as possible; and accordingly the next day she removed thither, where we shall for a while leave her, to attend some interesting circumstances which essentially relate to the catastrophe of this history.

The information the younger Mr. Herald received, of his uncle's being in town, created suggestions which doubly alarmed him, lest chance, or any intelligence, should occasion their meeting, or his finding out Felicia, and treating her in a manner correspondent to that opinion he had retained of her, from the report raised in the country, by Scent, of her having gone off from Gloucester with Mr. Placid. That he was busy in his enquiries after her, he justly conjectured, from his having been at Mr. Fairfax's, and now the plan of observation, in which his agent had been employed, was to be changed, and his *uncle's* steps were to be assiduously watched, in prospect, by those means (improbable as they were) to trace out those of Felicia.

For this purpose, he was ordered to pay his constant attendance at a neighbouring coffee-house, conveniently situated, to observe his going out, follow, and bring his director an account of every place he went to. But this negotiation proved as successful as the former had done, and though the crisis of his fate was now approaching, it

afforded him no previous marks of its resolves, but seemed impending, with that doubtful aspect he had beheld it in for a considerable time past. Nor was the situation of his *uncle's* mind in a much less-fluctuating state, and the *present* inquietudes of it renewed the *former* it had sustained, which were noticed in the earlier part of this history, to have thrown a periodical gloom, and constant oddity, upon his disposition.

Whether to indulge, or dissipate those crowding reflections, which at this time conjunctively pressed him, my anecdotes have not discovered, but from one or other of these motives he came very early in the morning into St. James's Park, and walking slowly toward the Mall, musing with folded arms, was observed by a woman, who had the property of a number of those cows, which stand there, to furnish the passengers with milk.

This person, upon the instant she saw him, appeared so evidently disturbed, that those about her could not avoid remarking. After she had a little collected herself, she committed the care of her employment to one who assisted her, saying, she must follow and observe *that gentleman*, who if it was the same, she was almost confident it must, she had something of consequence to communicate to him.

She quickly overtook, and passed him, repeatedly turned, and viewed him with great

great earnestness, which the deep reverie he was wrapped in, for some time, prevented his observing ; but the peculiarity of her behavior could not be long unnoticed, and waking from his disturbed cogitations, *she* still looking eagerly upon him, he asked her, with some warmth, what she meant by turning, and gazing upon him in that impertinent manner ? She, with all the deference imaginable, and an apparent confusion of countenance, apologized in the best manner she was capable, for the singularity and rudeness of her conduct ; but that were it a *proper* place, and he pleased to hear what she had to say, if a number of years had not deceived her memory, she had something to reveal, which, she believed, would prevail upon him to consider her thus accosting him with less severity.

Mr. Herald, concluding from this extraordinary address, the woman had something of concern, relative to his nephew, to import, directed her to follow him, suggesting to himself, the secret she had to disclose could be nothing less than the meeting and *marriage* of the two lovers.

As they passed along toward his lodging, he broke into a kind of half soliloquy, to this effect---It must be so ! and if it is, be assured, inconsiderate fool ! your ruin is complete.--- Then turning short, asked his female attendant, by what means *she* came to the knowledge

ledge of it, and if he had not somewhere seen her face before? She told him he should be immediately resolved in both. *Resolved!* returned he, I am already resolved, in the most important--And yet, methinks, there appears in your confusion of countenance, a number of complicated circumstances, which infer, if possible, something more than what I yet apprehend.

They were now near the entrance from the park, into St. James's house, therefore more liable to observation, and his impatience immediately mended his pace through it to his lodgings, which were in Pall-Mall.

They were no sooner come into the apartment, than he began to view his new acquaintance, with no less attention, and surprise, than *she* had before observed *him* in the park; and after remaining some time silent, said, your extraordinary manner of addressing me, and my own recollection, begin to recall to my mind, a crowd of circumstances, interesting and alarming-----When! where! was it I before saw you! for seen you I *have*, and, from these emotions of my heart, on an occasion even more affecting than *that* I first conceived, from *thence*, the passions of *remorse* and *love*, long lain dormant in my breast, do now reproach me, and renew those efforts of severe compunction, I have for years endeavored to remove and conquer---Relieve these doubts!---relieve my hopes and fears! which are alike impatient---

impatient---tell me instantly---are not you the person into whose hands, about nineteen years since, I delivered a new-born child, with a bill of a hundred pound for its support and care of it during life?

The woman replied in the affirmative, with the addition of other concurring circumstances, which removed all possible doubt of her being the person; but Mr. Herald, scarce affording her time to demonstrate so necessary a truth, with an impetuous sensibility, the tears almost starting from his eyes, said, answer me, is she dead or living? Living, sir, returned the other, and in perfect health. But where, continued he, has she remained, during the unnatural separation necessity enforced at her birth, and which, repeatedly, I have endeavoured to discover, by frequent, though fruitless enquiries after *you*? Here the woman falling upon her knees, and intreating his forgiveness, gave the following relation.

That at the time she received his daughter (as she presumed she was) she had also the care of another, but a few days older, the daughter of a gentleman whose name was Blanchman, which child dying suddenly, she was induced, for the continuing the considerable wages she had contracted for, and disencumbering herself of the expence that would arise in keeping *his*, to secrete the death of Mr. Blanchman's child; and not

only gave it out in the neighbourhood where she lived, that it was the death of the *other child*, which suddenly happened, but imposed the *living one*, upon the father and mother of the *dead child* for *theirs*, which the very near equality of their ages, with similitude of complexion and eyes, so amply concurred with, that neither of them ever entertained the slightest doubt of its truth.

Why, interrupted Mr. Herald, warmly, have you at once *raised* and *depressed* the tender feelings of a *father* by informing me I have a child, but at that instant repelling those affecting sensations, in so severely wounding me with the harsh reflection, that all her sentiments of duty, love, and every soft *paternal* claim, are but too justly paid to *others*?

She then informed him, those apprehensions had been long removed by the death of both---How then, interrupted Mr. Herald, has she been since disposed of? She informed him, at a gentleman's a considerable distance from London; who, upon the death of her supposed father, for whom he had a particular friendship and regard, took her under his protection and care. But what were the united transports of pleasure, which suddenly rushed upon him, when he heard this gentleman was Sir Edward Haunch, and her name Felicia! Yet here, again, his joy had instantly its alloy, in reflecting upon the sudden
and

and secret retreat she had made from thence, and the improbability of her being again recovered. But as in all events where the passions are thus principally concerned, their transitions are frequent and unexpected, so it occurred with this gentleman, who had no sooner expressed his concern upon that occasion, than it was removed, by the information of that good *Genius*, from whom he had received those alternate vicissitudes of pain and pleasure; who informed him, she had a few days before, at the instance of Mr. Fairfax, removed to his house.

It is conjectured the reader, by this time, does not want to be informed, this woman was the same person, Felicia made her second residence with after coming to London, and who had been obliged to take up the occupation, mentioned in the beginning of this chapter, for her support, being now too far advanced in years to follow her former.

Mr. Herald having thus received the pleasing account, his new-found daughter was happily placed with so worthy a man as Mr. Fairfax, there remained no impediment to the gratifying that fond parental indulgence, he found swelling in his breast with ardent wishes to possess; but the manner in which a discovery, so delicate in its nature, was to be made, was not to be determined on with indifference or precipitation, but

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required the most deliberate and gentle caution.

After reflecting upon a variety of expedients, he could suggest no one, but what appeared productive of disturbing that tranquillity and peace of mind (he wished to preserve) by making known to her the secret of her birth, which she might, from an elegance of thinking, reflect upon with sentiments pernicious to her repose. And considering also, that her loss in the mutual and tender transports of the first embraces of a child and parent, could not be attended with any painful sensibility, while she remained unknowing of such a situation, he determined rather than put it to the hazard, of her being hereafter wounded by any secret reproach, to repress in himself those *ideal* joys he had formed of a meeting, which would be fraught with every fond endearment nature knows.

Thus resolving to preserve the secret of Felicia's birth entirely from her knowledge, it was necessary to seal the lips of *her* who, except himself, had solely the power of giving the least distant intimation of it, and that even she might consider it in a more favorable light, than from the circumstances which attended it, he supposed she did, he strictly enjoined her (seconded by strong assurances of favor) never to acquaint Felicia, or any other person whatever, with the slightest particularity attending it; lest, from thence,

thence, dishonorable conjectures should be inferred, which might lessen her in her *own* opinion, or that of the world; and since it was now impossible, from length of time, and equally so, at the *crisis* when it happened, from very interesting contingencies, *properly* to publish it; and as she herself had transferred her to other parents, he thought it was for the mutual peace and interest of all concerned, that it should ever remain in the same state of belief it now did.

This she promised to observe most religiously, adding, since she had so fortunately found an occasion of disclosing the secret to him, her mind was disburdened of those inquietudes which had frequently prompted, and might have yet induced her, to communicate it to some other; but those removed, he might rest assured of her confidence and truth. Nor could there, indeed, be any motive for doubting them, since she could not possibly have any for their *violation*, having had the prevailing one of interest for their *support*, with an influencing earnest of which, she was for the present dismissed.

Which the merry disposed reader had better pass over.

MR. Herald, now left alone to contemplate this pleasing and unlooked-for revolution in his mind and family, and strongly impatient for an interview with his daughter; the resolutions taken, of not confessing her as such, recurred to him with very *feeling* and affecting sensibility, and involved him in some perplexity, to determine upon his introduction, in such a manner, as might be least liable to give her inquietude, or create any surprise from her, at the extraordinary change in his conduct and resolutions, which were now as totally reversed in *favour* of his nephew's marriage with her, as they had before been formed in *opposition* to it. But the impatient, and strong impulses of nature, were too prevailing for any farther considerations, and he immediately ordered a coach to the door, to carry him to Mr. Fairfax's, leaving every prudential reflection to be digested, either in his going thither, or not at all; being no longer able to withstand those tender calls of the *father*, which so strenuously urged the seeing a *child*, he had supposed lost to him so late recovered, and whom

whom he reflected, with great severity of pain, never to have beheld but once.

Those who have children, though not in the precise situation of this gentleman, will be more especially capable of forming ideas of his state of mind, as he draws nearer and nearer to the place, which was to be the scene of this affecting interview. Such will humanely sympathise with the alternate pleasure and pain, in the approaching prospect of beholding a *child*, and being with-held from confessing the *father*; of feeling *every* soft and tender emotion nature prompts, yet restrained from giving utterance to *one*; nay, he had even a *more* arduous task to undergo, the affecting a *severity* of behavior, as the uncle of her lover, for under that character alone, he could form any pretensions for seeing her at all. These were hard conditions to be complied with, in place of pouring out the heart in all the fond endearments of expressive language, and the more expressive eloquence of the soft embrace and silent tear of joy.

When he came to the house of Mr. Fairfax, strongly agitated with these contending passions, and high in his impatience to disburden himself, his philosophy (of which he had not the largest share) had occasion for its fullest force, in the delay he met with from Mr. Fairfax's being abroad, whose previous intimation, and introduction, he had considered

considered as materially essential, not only in point of common good-breeding, but particularly of tender prudence, to prevent the too sudden alarm of spirits she might sustain, from an abrupt disclosing himself, in a *character* and *style* he concluded must be as little pleasing to her as to *himself*.

If nature had been busy in stimulating her ardent longings in his breast, from the instant he was informed his daughter was in *being*, and still grew more rapid in their progress, upon his knowing he had the means in his power of quickly seeing her; to what height must the impatient struggles rise, when he found himself under the same roof, and withheld by considerations too prevailing to be dispensed with? and though the return of Mr. Fairfax was not very tedious, the expectation of it grew almost too painful for discretion, and ringing for a servant, he enquired if the young lady, who within these two or three days had taken up her residence there, was alone; and when told she was, desired to be shewn to her apartment; but when got half-way up the stairs, stopped short, and returning, said, upon recollection, I think, friend, it may be improper, therefore will wait your master's coming in---which immediately after relieved his impatience.

In the course of their conference, when he had explained to Mr. Fairfax, that this visit to the young lady, was more induced from
reflection,

reflection, than *resentment*, in order to be *himself* able to form a judgment of those merits, he had heard she was so largely possessed of, and that it was not impossible, if he found them proportioned to the character he had received, he might be prevailed on, notwithstanding her great inequality of fortune, to give his consent to her marriage with his nephew; though perhaps he might, at first, as an expedient to try her disposition, appear somewhat different in his conduct to her.

Mr. Fairfax made him a short compliment upon the rectitude of his thinking; adding, that from the experience he hitherto had of the strength and purity of *her's*, he thought it equal to that of many *men*, and superior to *most women*—but *his* encomiums were needless, her merits would best speak for themselves; yet, should they appear less amiable than he thought them, he had, the preceding day, received a testimony, which rarely failed of conviction. But he would acquaint her of his being there, and was persuaded she would want no auxiliary advocate.

When Felicia was informed of this so extraordinary and unexpected visit, she was affected with more *surprise* than *agitation* of mind, being wholly at a loss to form any rational conjecture of the occasion, which when she expressed to Mr. Fairfax, he told her, if he could judge of the heart, from the countenance, her wonder, he believed, might possibly

possibly be rather *increased* than *abated*; and he foresaw, from many concurring circumstances, that happy change in her fortune, her deservings seemed so justly to demand, and which he had sufficient reasons to conclude, he should himself be an agent in contributing to, But the means were not yet ripe for disclosing, and had some contingent dependency, to be revealed with more propriety, when the result of this interview was known--which, replied Felicia, I think, sir, it is incumbent on me, should no longer be delayed, and am ready, sir, to wait upon you down.

Upon their entering the apartment below, where Mr. Herald was waiting, the appearance of Felicia, immediately struck him with a feeling recollection of the features of her dead mother, and he was so wholly disconcerted, that he remained silent a considerable time, and, not without difficulty, roused himself from that affecting contemplation.

Mr. Fairfax considering himself circumstanced, in some degree, as *parent* to Felicia; and having himself something of importance to communicate, judged it proper to continue in the room during this interview.

Mr. Herald, not being wholly collected from the sudden impulse, nature had so involuntarily exerted, at his first beholding a *daughter*, said, 'tis strange ! that in such a number of years, memory should not have
lost

lost every impression so long since made ! the very semblance of her ! each line and feature !----But hastily recovering from these broken, unguarded sentences, he found himself under the hard necessity of repelling the strong efforts of *nature*, and having recourse to those of *art*, by saying, But what has the likeness of one woman, to another, to do with my purpose of coming hither ? which has reference, madam, only to your *mind*, not your *person*---in soliciting you, for your own sake, ingeniously to make known to me, in the most explicit manner, the connections between you and Mr. Charles Herald, to whom I am unhappy enough to be uncle ; explain to me, I beseech you, without disguise, what induced your sudden departure from Sir Edward Haunch's before the time enjoined ? your extraordinary flight from Gloucester with Mr. Placid ? were these concerted measures between yourself and lover, to cover from me those future purposes which, I presume, are now adjusted between you ? where does he secret himself ? let not your fears betray you into falsehood, for truth has charms to soften rigor, and wave the firm resolves which even *interest* prompts----Here, seeming to pause for a reply, Felicia, with great composure, answered in the following manner.

The connections, sir, between your nephew and myself, were such, as from the mutual

mutual intercourse of eyes, and sympathy of hearts, are warranted by virtue's strictest laws, and are impelled by those of *nature*; who, proud of her creative sway, and absolute in rule, gives birth to *equal* passions, in breasts *unequal* by the partial gifts of rank and fortune. Thus stood the account between us, I owned the power of *love*, but could not barter for its soothing charms the dictates conscious *reason* taught, and madly sacrifice to *love*, the bonds of *friendship*, *gratitude*, and *honor*, which all united 'gainst the fond delusion, struggling for dominion o'er the pleading *merit* of my *lover*, and the soft persuasive powers of my *yielding heart*.

Mr. Herald, unable to with-hold the pleasing impatience which labored in his bosom, said, thou hast persuasive powers in thy *tongue*, which o'er my *yielding heart* exert an influence never felt till now. Wherefore did I rudely press a crowd of questions? all are already answered, I am convinced, and farther explanation would be needless.

Pardon me, sir, replied Felicia, if I mistake not, you have observed, that *truth* has charms to soften rigor, give me leave to add, it also has an honest *pride*, in urging *all* its powers; and when alarmed by cold suspicion, will not rest its cause upon a *single* proof, but open every avenue that leads to give it lustre. Therefore, in strict conformity to *that*, and to the whole of your demands, to be ingeniously

nuously explicit in my answers, I must have leave *still* to proceed.

Mr. Fairfax told her, he thought there was a just propriety and spirit, in perfecting the *progress* of her conduct; and addressing himself to Mr. Herald; said, Since, sir, you found that pleasing influence over your heart, in the behalf of truth and innocence, when but *commencing* their defence, how will your bosom glow with generous sentiments, to hear the rising progress of their proof? and be convinced, your nephew's passion was not merely founded on *external* charms, but had the stronger, nobler beauties of the *mind*, to vindicate its choice.

Sir, returned Mr. Herald, I have received too sensible a pleasure from the proofs already given of such distinguished merits, not to attend with longing expectation, for those which yet remain, since what at first I *feared* to have resolved, is now become my *ardent wish*; and, madam, I applaud that commendable pride in you, in urging your defence of each particular, my too impetuous warmth enjoined---Proceed let me intreat you.

Felicia, recapitulating what she had begun, said, if *love* had made its soft impressions on my heart, yet *friendship*, *gratitude*, and *honor*, still held *their* power over it; nor would admit their formidable rival to subdue their claims, but chiefly *love* itself, was armed
against

against itself; the generous passion, sir, your nephew thus unguardedly conceived, held in contempt the narrow views of birth and fordid interest, and duty too he thought was not too great a sacrifice to *love*. What woman, then, who saw, and heard the strong persuasion of a person amiable! a passion infinitely tender! and as infinitely noble and disinterested! but must have felt its force? I admired! and wished I might admit the interesting pleader, but *love* denied what *love* suggested, *justly* to reward the merit, which my heart acknowledged, there appeared no choice, but to dissolve the charm by *absence*, and prevent the involving such *desert*, beneath the impending danger disobedience must incur, from an attachment so unequal, and so justly dreaded, sir, by you. These resolutions, strengthened by the conditions insisted on, as previous to the marriage-treaty of his *brother*, with my generous friend and benefactress Meliora, and an expected visit from Mr. Herald, the succeeding morning, after my knowledge of the terms resolved on, induced my sudden and precipitate removal, lest the woman's softness should fondly have forgot my *friend's* depending *happiness*, and my *lover's* threatened *danger*.

Mr. Herald, unable to with-hold his sentiments of pleasure and applause, said, such unexampled fortitude of mind merits reward, beyond the power of the *worthiest* lover.---
Such

Such, sir, interrupted Felicia, Mr. Herald is, and that such worth might not become a forfeit to the slender estimate *he* put upon it in his regard to *me*, as I *first* formed my resolution to avoid that fatal consequence, I had still *pursued* it steadily from Gloucester, under the friendly, generous protection of the worthy Mr. Placid, had not his humane intention been prevented, by the basest outrage, abandoned license ever meditated, but was at once defeated and avenged by heaven's intervening power, whose protecting hand conducted me *alone* in safety hither, where I have still received repeated instances, of the unwearied wishes Mr. Placid has for the protection of unhappy innocence; and but from *his* honest, ingenuous counsel, had never known the kind protection of this hospitable house.

Mr. Herald, rising with a transport of joy, and pressing her to his bosom, said, these unexampled proofs of truth and virtue, could not have afforded more substantial bliss, than mine receives, even from the indulgent wishes of a *father's* heart.

Alas! returned Felicia, I have long lost those sympathizing ties of nature, have long been quite estranged to that felicity which flows, alone, in the united channels of *filial* and *parental* love, and am now become, not only a dejected *orphan*, but a distressed and helpless wanderer.

Mr. Herald,

Mr. Herald, breaking into tears, and for some time unable to speak, after collecting himself, said, be comforted my *child*, nor thus regret the loss of that endearing name, which henceforth shall no more be felt, but find its reparation here, and meet in *me* a future father; this hour restores to thee another, more indulgent parent, and should bestow a *lover* and a *busband*, were my power as active as my will; but that, alas! is yet restrained, and *be*, as ignorant of the bliss that waits to crown his wishes, as *I* am of the means to acquaint him with the happy change. But wherefore now those tears? let this embrace dispel, and dry them up; no more let sorrow reach thy heart, but let the coming hours be crowned with peace and joy.

Those hours, replied Felicia are already come, and these the tears of peace, of joy, of gratitude and love; for *words* would faintly speak the language of my heart, which overflowing, swells too fast with transport, to pay the tribute of my thanks, in utterance from my *tongue*, which, sir, I am deprived of power to prove, by any other means, than falling thus, and weeping at your *feet*.

Mr. Herald raising, and again embracing her, with great tenderness, said, these tears, though sprung from *joy*, too feelingly affect, and strike the strings of memory with deep regret, and sharp remorse, for all those pangs which my unconscious, unrelenting disposition

sition has cost thy tender mind; but henceforth I will atone, by every fond indulgence nature knows, for each unguarded passion of my heart, considering *thee*, as meant the gentle monitor, to mark and to correct those errors. Therefore, to begin that task, I will immediately employ my utmost diligence and care to find thy lover, acquaint him with the unlooked-for change, thy hidden virtues have inspired, and prove a parent's utmost bliss, in crowning both your wishes.

CH A P. XL.

Containing nothing new or uncommon.

FELICIA, in paying her attendance to Mr. Herald, when he left the house to make enquiry after his nephew, waiting at the door while he went into his coach, happened to cast her eye upon the young acquaintance, who became known to her during her short stay at Shrewsbury, who having been upon his post of observation, was crossing the way to follow, as he had before done, and renew his intelligence to Mr. Herald junior, of his uncle's motions.

The Lady was at first somewhat doubtful in her opinion, but upon his advancing nearer the door, was confirmed in it, by his stopping and looking eagerly upon her; and, perhaps,

perhaps, it might have been difficult to have decided, whose countenance was most remarkably lighted up with pleasure. The *lad* at so happy and unexpected an occasion of gratifying his patron, in an instance of all others, he knew would prove most transporting to him, or Felicia; in the pleasing prospect of receiving some intimation where he was; concluding it extremely probable, if he was in London, his dependent must have some knowledge of it. Principally induced from this motive, and, in some degree, from a favourable impression received of him in the country, *she* saluted him with a very affable complacency, desiring him to follow her in; when recollecting, that before he had observed *her*, he had remarked, with particular attention, Mr. Herald's getting into the coach, and was going to follow it, till diverted from it by his seeing *her*, and there appearing in his countenance a very visible and pleasing surprise, these joint circumstances, and the knowledge *she* had of his attachment to her lover, raised in her some surmise, that more than accident had contributed to seeing him in that part of the town, therefore asked him, what occasion had brought him into the city, so distant from the place where his studies demanded his attendance?

He told her his attendance had, for several days past, been demanded in pursuit of what
he

he had now most fortunately found, and would afford the impatient wishes of his employer the highest gratification. Though she verily readily conceived *wobom*, and *what* he meant, she desired he would explain himself. He told her, though the explanation, perhaps, related as materially to *her*, as to the *gentleman* from whom he had been commisioned, yet he was in doubt, whether he was authorized to communicate the success he had met with, till he had first imparted it to him.

Felicia said, she would by no means suffer her curiosity to induce him to make any breach of the trust reposed in him, and yet, as he had acknowledged *she* was materially concerned, she could not but look upon herself entitled to partake the secret.

Madam, replied the youth, if *I* may be judged capable to offer my opinion, from what, with the highest joy, I have observed, in the tranquillity and ease of *your* conduct and countenance, as well as that of the gentleman who just now went from the door in a coach, I believe, I shall not be thought to trespass too far, in acquainting you that Mr. Herald, my generous benefactor and master, has, since his arrival in town, made it his own, and my constant employment, to endeavor at the discovery, where (as he was pleased to call it) you had *cruelly* hid yourself. I, madam, am too young to taste of love, and if the pains attending it are such as *be* has felt, still to remain unknowing must be esteemed a blessing.

M

Felicia

Felicia said, with some degree of surprise, by what strange sympathy did you become acquainted, *I* was the person Mr. Herald thus unhappily sustained those sufferings for? He, with great deference replied, I hope, madam, you will excuse that information till a fitter time; since the present calls upon me, immediately, to give my master the happy tidings you are found, and rid him of those heavy pangs which have so long afflicted him.

Felicia said, such anxious haste bespoke his duty and his love, and still to charge them with a task more pleasing, inform him, every harsh resolve his uncle held, is melted into soft compliant peace and harmony of heart; that he is now, with warm impatience, gone in search of him, determined by the happy influence of our kinder stars, to seal those vows of *love*, he so late with vigorous force opposed. Tell him too, (thus authorized, I hope the rules prescribed our sex permit my saying) I wish to see him, congratulate *myself* and *him*, upon the pleasing prospect of this change, the earnest which it gives of gentle, smiling hours to come.

This commission was executed almost, with an equal pleasure to that, with which it was given; and if *love* had its powerful influence in dictating this pleasing message in *her* breast, in *his*, *duty* and *gratitude* had theirs, in being made the instrument of conveying it, and he instantly hastened to be the harbinger of so unexpected and transporting a guest.

A short

A short time after his departure, Mr. Placid came to partake in the pleasure of this unlooked for catastrophe, in which the native goodness of his heart made him a considerable sharer, and gave him an opportunity of moralizing upon it in a very pathetic, yet polite strain, by paying to Felicia compliments, elegantly blended with serious and sedate reflections, upon the protection and reward heaven still reserves for *virtue*, through a series of distress and danger, observing its spreading influence did not alone affect the meritorious object of its *immediate* care, but frequently extended its reconciling hand to such as had *connections* with that worth, though in themselves, perhaps, defective and remiss, but truth and innocence, had qualities as well to obtain *atonement* as *reward*, and suffering *virtue* mediates for offending *vice*.

Felicia said, her debt to heaven was all her *own*, since her dependencies of family and blood, were long dissolved by death, therefore more fervent and unbounded thanks were due for such peculiar blessings. And their continuance, replied Mr. Placid, must attend these sensible and just ideas of them, which are so evidently the result of a grateful and humble heart. How amply now are the friendly and prophetic lessons of Captain Worthy verified, that a despondency of heaven's protection, should never seize the *virtuous* mind? *that* is the proper state of *vice* and *guilt*, and even *there*,

there, an effort to o'ercome the force and turbulence of passions, will never fail to meet the lenient arm of mercy, stretched to guide it through the maze of error, into peace and soft tranquillity.

Though these were contemplations which stood in no need of assistance, to render them pleasing to Felicia, yet it may be naturally enough conjectured they were not the less so, from reflecting upon the accomplishment of the first part of them, in the approaching meeting of her *lover*, and the consummation of both their wishes.

Some time having now elapsed, since the messenger had been dispatched to him, with the happy and unlooked for catastrophe of their fate, and *her* congratulating message of invitation, every knocking at the door alarmed her, with tender tumults of hope and joy for his arrival, which were at last completed, by his entrance into the room, repeatedly embracing her in the tenderest, and most affecting manner. When after a mutual silence, which over-bearing transport enforced, he cried, utterance is too weak to tell my joy; and *again* embracing her, said, the tender tumults of the overflowing heart, too powerful for the tongue, deprive it of its office; and *yet* can only pay their tribute in the silent language of my eyes, and soft endearments of my circling arms. A language, replied Felicia, far more eloquent, more expressive,

expressive, of ingenuous sentiments, than all the laboured art of boasted *rhetoric* knows. He told her, the united force of mute and speaking rhetoric, was unequal to describe the heart-felt joy with which his breast was filled, but flattered himself, the sympathy of *hers* would dictate to her every soft emotion there, and swell with equal wishes, to unlade in words, those soft emotions struggling to have passage.

Hypocrisy, answered Felicia, is a vice I have ever held in abhorrence, though it were even in prevention but of the slightest mortification ; and shall I *now* admit its entrance to conceal a *passion* I am proud to own, which heaven, with condescending grace, appears to smile upon ; from that unhopèd reverse of influence, it so amazingly has wrought in our behalf? your *uncle*, even with a *father's* fondness, has lavished his indulgence toward me, by every softning instance, the best loved *daughter* might have claimed. Nor can I pay his fond endearments back, with less regards of duty and affection, than such as call upon the *child*, who holds the foremost place in partial *parents* hearts.

He told her, there only wanted an *acquaintance* with her merit, to set it in that amiable light his uncle *bad* ; and he was always well assured he *must* consider it, whenever an occasion presented itself, of his coming to that knowledge. But where is he ? I hoped to

have found him here---I am impatient to pay my tribute of fervent thanks and gratitude, for this completion of the blessings he bestows; and without which all others had proved tasteless and languid.

Felicia said, he left her about an hour since, in order to search *him* out, if possible, and bless him with the tydings of this happy change; but imagined, his disappointment would occasion his immediate return.

The lover, whose flow of joy, and spirits, had so far transported him, to prevent observing Mr. Placid's being in the room; at last, casting his eyes that way, said, I hope, fir, you'll pardon the rudeness I have been guilty of, in thus long neglecting to pay my grateful thanks, where they are so largely due, for that generous and humane protection, you have given this lady, and the interested concern you have *since* shewn for her welfare, by writing to my brother, in so friendly and pathetic a manner, of the distresses into which, you were apprehensive, she must be driven, from her not having pursued her intended journey to London, which letter was obligingly intended for *me*; but as you observed in it, you had received information of my absence from home, therefore imagined *that* the most probable means of having the account transmitted me. These are instances of the most humane, benevolent disposition, abstractedly considered; but when

when the object, on whom they were bestowed, is put into the balance, they outweigh every expression of gratitude I can suggest; but be assured, sir, it shall be my future study to put my sentiments of regard into action; and shall wait, with eager impatience, for an occasion to manifest their truth.

Mr. Placid said, the occasion had already offered itself, in which whatever merit could be ascribed to him, was most amply rewarded in furnishing a prospect, from whence truth, virtue, and honor, would meet a compensation, for that strict adherence to them, both himself and the lady had given such evident proofs of.

The old gentleman returning from the search after his nephew, entered the room with apparent marks of disappointment; but immediately perceiving him there, ran and embraced him with the utmost transport. Then taking the hand of Felicia, looking on her with the tenderest emotions of joy, but unable to speak, put her into the arms of her lover, eagerly embracing both, while *they* embraced each other; and in a voice which bespoke the inward tumults he sustained, cried, Heaven is too gracious!--but they are *your* deservings have drawn this blessing down, my children---I have not merited---Here his excess of transport grew too powerful for speech, and almost for his spirits; but getting

ting to a chair, a short time renewed *them*, and his recollection, that *passion* must subside to *prudence*; and that indulging those feeling efforts of nature (so extremely different to his former conduct) might create speculations in his nephew, he chose not to give birth to; since it was not impossible he might heretofore have received distant intimations, of that *correspondence* which was the true incitement to those extraordinary emotions. Therefore, calling up his cooler reason, said, it will not appear to you, my dear Charles, a subject of surprise, who are so intimately and justly conscious of this lady's deservings, that they have wrought in *me* so sudden and unexpected a change; they wanted only *earlier* to be known, to have convinced me of the mistaken error I was involved in, that every woman's *merit* was proportioned to her *fortune*----Here Mr. Fairfax interrupting, said, *nor is that merit wanting, sir, of which I could some hours since have informed you, but rather chose to defer it, as an additional means of more fully completing the happiness I saw in view, and not depriving you, sir, of paying your generous tribute to her merit, uninfluenced from any other motive.*

I think, sir, continued Mr. Fairfax, I have before observed to you, her father, Mr. Blanchman, was my particular intimate and friend, who, at his death, entrusted the little fortune he left her in my hands. The confidence

confidence he had reposed in me, has been since communicated to a brother of his, whose slender circumstances pushed him upon endeavoring to enlarge them, by going abroad, where he lived and prospered for near sixteen years, and dying childless, has left a fortune, amounting to near sixteen thousand pounds, to this lady, his niece, of which I yesterday received an account upon 'change, together with his will, and a confirmation of his effects.

Felicia, and her lover, viewed each other with silent, but *pleasurable* amazement, while Mr. Herald remained in a kind of middle state, between joy and doubt; reflecting, that this unlooked-for acquisition to Felicia, had an immediate tendency to cover all suspicion of her real birth, but was disturbed, in point of integrity and honor, whether such acquisition properly became her *right*; and if it was not incumbent upon *him*, in the strict eye of justice, to unfold the error which had given her pretensions to it. However, as that was a point of too critical and nice a nature to be determined, without a more mature deliberation, deferred the farther discussion of it, with himself, to a fitter occasion, joining in the congratulations upon this fortunate event, with Mr. Fairfax and his nephew, telling him, he would directly write to his father, and Sir Edward Haunch, upon this pleasing catastrophe, which would prove equally

equally joyful to both families. That he would desire preparation might be made in the country for their reception, and the immediate celebrating their own, with the marriage of his brother and Meliora, which both, with an unusual spirit of friendship, had insisted should be deferred, till the general welfare carried a more favourable aspect.

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